Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-90-047
Friday
9 March 1990

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FBIS-LAT-90-047 *9 March 1990*

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Cuba

More on Roa Kouri Reaction to Commission Vote

FL0703163790 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] The 46th session of the UN Human Rights Commission has approved in Geneva a resolution on Cuba presented by the United States. The United States put a lot of pressure to impose that decision. Before the vote, the document was characterized as totally unacceptable by Cuban Foreign Vice Minister Raul Roa Kouri who reiterated that there is no situation in Cuba regarding human rights that justifies the use of a procedure such as the one suggested by Washington. The text, which is aimed at establishing a followup procedure for the human rights situation in Cuba, was approved with 19 votes in favor, 12 against, and 12 abstentions.

Roa Kouri said this type of action is used in cases of massive and flagrant violations or of a policy of systematic violations of the fundamental rights and freedoms such as the one prevailing in racist South Africa or in the Arab and Palestinian territories occupied by Israel. He also rejected the U.S. version of alleged reprisals taken by Cuba against individuals who met with the UN Human Rights Commission delegation in Cuban territory.

After the resolution proposed by the United States in Geneva was approved, Foreign Vice Minister Raul Roa Kouri made brief remarks explaining the reason the Cuban delegation voted against the document. After noting that the United States has developed a policy of attacks, harassment, pressures, and economic blockade against our country for 30 years—even blocking the purchase of medicines in the U.S. market needed to save the lives of children, women, and old people—Roa Kouri stated that this shows Washington's pharisaism when it refers to a supposed concern over human rights in Cuba. Later on he said that during the four years which the United States has attempted to impose its will on the Human Rights Commission, our nation has maintained a firm stance in defense of the principles which should prevail in this organization.

Roa Kouri recalled that Cuba promoted in 1988 a visit of the aforementioned political commission. This was characterized as a historic step by Ambassador Alioune Sene, president of the delegation. The Cuban foreign vice minister stressed that the United States, using its power, was able to impose a decision that undermines the role of the United Nations and introduces very negative precedents in the commission's work. Roa Kouri said Washington used all kinds of pressure and used sophism, saying that the way the draft was presented was not against Cuba, which is not true. The resolution is aimed at giving Cuba a different treatment to the one given to other countries in light of established procedures. He added that countries that have always been with Cuba, such as Bulgaria, have fallen in this trap thinking that the U.S. draft was not discriminatory. Roa Kouri thanked Bulgaria for its past support but noted that it had been tricked by the U.S. sophism. He added that in the case of the CSSR and Poland, which joined in as cosponsors, the sense of the political changes taken place there is evident. In reality, it is not even surprising inasmuch as there are some who change principles as easily as others change their jackets. Faced with those facts, Cuba will not support or allow discriminations. Its response will not be the response of consent but the response of dignity, ended saying the Cuban foreign vice minister.

Commentary Criticizes Pluralism, Calls for Unity

FL0703194590 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Latin American countries are now facing the same problem, no longer of development, but rather the struggle for survival. Just at this time, when we most need unity and common action, some devote themselves, as far as Cuba is concerned, to pitifully wasting time talking to us about pluralism, democracy, a multiple party system, and other such trash, all of which are daughters of the empire which has used them for a long time to mercilessly loot us.

Pluralism, as Fidel told women representatives of the continent in 1985, is, in effect, Moslems, Christians, Catholics, Adventists, Hindus, Marxists, socialists, [illegible]persocialists, and right and left-wing extremists all traveling together on a ship. However, the ship is sinking. Then, the logical idea becomes to get to the shore with the help of all, without asking the other one whether he is Christian, Hindu, Moslem, or Marxist-Leninist. This is the wise and sensible conclusion, but some forget this and prefer to forget because of opportunism, or because they hide from the true problem.

The many words, which the empire has put us to sleep with for ages, are hypocritical; big lies. History tells us this. If not, let us look around. Over 160 million Latin Americans currently go hungry and live in inhumane conditions under the poverty level. Millions die of curable diseases. Millions lack employment or housing, and they do not even know how to read or write their own name. These are the results of democracy, of pluralism, of multiple parties which we have copied from the empire; what has been instilled upon us.

Evidently the facts indicate to us that these false values are not, and will never be the panacea to cure our maladies. The institutional scheme of the powerful exploiter will never be the an adequate answer for the exploited ones. Our countries have no one to exploit. Therefore, the exploiter's scheme is useless. It can only guarantee its own opulence. We have lost over a century of formal independence in that trap. The time came to escape it. Those who do not do so now, will irremediably succumb.

Commentary Analyzes 'Freedom of Press' Concept

FL0803191290 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Notable journalist (George Silvs) wrote some years ago that nothing under the sun can be hidden from the U.S. press except the U.S. press itself. To illustrate what he asserted, (Silvs) step by step dispelled the myth that in the United States anyone can write about anything. The result of this work, done with the care of a taxidermist, has arrived to us in the form of a book entitled "The Masters of the Press."

Since the Inter-American Press Association [IAPA] was created in 1943, it has never stopped to consider this phenomena. There are hundreds of examples, scandalous ones as a matter of fact, that the U.S. press is manipulated by a small number of power groups and what is written in it is within the framework of those interest groups. Nevertheless, every time this same IAPA meets each year it ends its performance by launching diatribes against Cuba. The tone does not change. According to the old imperial prostitute, we are the country with the greatest freedom of expression restrictions.

Well, at least the revolution is not a cynic. We acknowledge that there is and will never be freedom of press for the counterrevolution. Revolutionary press is what is practiced in Cuba. That is, one that responds to the interests of the vast majority, who are the people. The Cuban revolution was not carried out to hand it over calmly—as some dream—to arrives, demagogues, opportunists, or oligarchs at the service of the empire.

Our revolution cost our people blood and effort. This circumstance gives us the right to defend it, not as the empire tells us to do, but as revolutionaries believe it is appropriate. He who thinks about implementing what was here in the past will have to come and do it as Fidel recalled last night, ready for combat.

Details of Fifth FMC Congress Discussed

Espin Ratified as President

FL0703190490 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] Vilma Espin, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Politburo, was ratified today as president of the Federation of Cuban Women [FMC]. Yolanda Ferrer, alternate member of the PCC Politburo, was elected as secretary general. Dora Carcano, who held this post previously, will carry out the tasks of the regional coordinator of the Women's International Democratic Federation for Latin America. The new Secretariat and its National Committee now has over 150 members who were approved by the over 1,400 delegates attending the congress.

The morning session of the fourth and last leg of the event began with a ceremony honoring Celia Sanchez Manduley. This fifth FMC congress, which has been taking place at the Palace of Conventions since Monday, ends today. The congress has been presided over by our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. The discussions and remarks focused on the role of women in production and defense.

Some of the members of foreign delegations are scheduled to speak this afternoon. As it is known, the event will close at 1800 with the remarks of our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro.

Castro Decorates Group of Women

FL0803144390 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] Within the framework of the fifth congress of the Federation of Cuban Women [FMC], Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has bestowed on (Fanny Edelman), vice president of the Women's International Democratic Federation; Vicentina Antuna; Concepcion Campa Huerga; (Senia Brokosnikova), [words indistinct] with the Mariana Grajales Order. The decoration was conferred by the Council of State at the request of the FMC. The order is conferred to Cuban and foreign women who have accomplished outstanding work in the struggle for socialism, welfare of humankind, and friendship with Cuba.

As she read the Council of State's agreement, FMC President Vilma Espin noted the work carried out by each one of the decorated women. Thirty-seven Cuban and foreign women also received the Ana Betancourt Order and 16 others were decorated with the 23 August Award the FMC confers for political and social work and progress.

'Final Declaration' Issued

FL0803133890 Havana Domestic Radio and Television Services in Spanish 2329 GMT 7 Mar 90

["Final declaration" issued by the Federation of Cuban Women, FMC, at the conclusion of its fifth congress held at the Palace of Conventions in Havana; read by FMC Secretary General Yolanda Ferrer—live]

[Text] The delegates to the fifth congress of the Federation of Cuban Women, expressing the feelings of the female masses grouped in our experienced organization, declare with unyielding determination the unrelenting loyalty of Cuban women to the principles of socialism; we proclaim, with legitimate pride, the satisfaction we feel because we are a part of the many generations of Cubans who share the privilege of having built this new society, because we are protagonists in these decisive moments experienced by the fatherland. We proclaim, with unyielding determination, that the glorious banners of socialism will always fly over our sovereign skies and on our independent and free land alongside the lone-star

flag. We reaffirm our willingness to fully devote ourselves to production and defense, confronting with revolutionary passion any difficulties that may arise. We will do this not only to survive but, as Fidel has asked us, to continue developing ourselves. We know that if the international situation were to worsen, we could find ourselves without the basic products we receive from other countries and we know what this implies. However, these problems will not break our spirit. We are ready to double our efforts and do our duty under any circumstances.

At the conclusion of our fifth congress we assume the commitment to ensure that everywhere in our country, the FMC will play the important social, ideological, political, and cultural role for which it was created. Every member will offer constant support in the battle for the development of our economy in her community and work site. We are aware of the need to increase our initiative and creativity to find solutions to our problems. It is necessary to be more demanding and promote savings, efficiency, and quality, and to be truly devoted to our work. Every delegation must be a source of orientation for the family; it must contribute to education and promote the [word indistinct] cultural traditions. It must promote the principles of equality, spread Marti's thoughts and Fidel's guiding words.

It should be the mobilizing base to express through words or deeds unconditional support for each one of the measures and plans of the revolution, to prepare women for defense in each task that the war of all of the people requires from them if someone dares attack us.

At a time when many are surrendering their banners, when unprecedented historic setbacks are taking place, the Cuban women, with honor and decision, as part of these heroic people, of these communist people, firmly express that nothing and nobody will make us go back, that there will be no force capable of defeating us.

We owe everything we are to this system. Socialism is the one that has given credit to women, the one that has set the foundations of equality and valued them. Socialism is the one that has guaranteed our people for 30 years the fundamental human rights; the right to work, health, education, culture, food, development, freedom, independence, sovereignty, dignity, and life. These three decades have eloquently shown the historic leap taken by Cuban women. Our achievements are evident. They are a beautiful product of this revolution. Our fight for equality is progressing constantly because it a priority goal of our work, because it forms part of the political decision of our party.

We are very aware of what socialist revolution means and we are willing to fight for it to our last breath. The fatherland will not have to wait for Cuban women. We will fulfill our part in the food program; in sugar, coffee and tobacco harvests; in reforestation activities; in planting and harvesting of medicinal plants; in the Turquino program production and public service activities; in the construction of housing and public service projects; in any task in which we are needed.

As in Giron and in the October crisis, as in every moment of the Yankee imperialist's constant attacks and threats, we will be ready for war in the Revolutionary Armed Forces' regular forces, in the voluntary women's military service, in the Interior Ministry, in the Territorial Troops Militia, and in production and defense brigades. Over 2 million women are prepared to fulfill the missions assigned to us in all possible types of war.

We know where to be; how to act, with what means; how to live and produce until the enemy is defeated. Their efforts to break our morale, of penetrating us ideologically, of influencing our young generation through radio and television will be dashed against the firmness and the dignity of all the Cuban people. We are in agreement with all the measures that may have to be taken to prevent the invader's waves from violating our sovereignty. With unwavering firmness during these momentous times, we feel beating in our hearts the spirit of Mariana, of Ana Betancourt, of the heroic women Mambi combatants of our independence efforts, of (America Labadi), of Lidia, and Clodomira, of Haydee, and of Celia. Their undying examples call us to fight and to victory.

Commander in Chief, today, as always, you can count on the Cuban women. We live proudly with our glorious party, with its unbreakable unity with the masses, with its leadership role in our society. We live proudly with sharing these wonderful years of revolution with you, with being your soldiers at a time when you lead a historic and momentous battle for humanity.

We have elected socialism, with full awareness, no matter what happens. The dangers, the difficulties do not scare us. The Yankees should not dream of making our people yield. If they undertake a wild adventure, we will know how to make our land a furious volcano where the imperialists will never be able to take hold.

We pledge eternal fidelity to the principles of Marxism-Leninism. We pledge that in our people there will never exist a Zanjon. We pledge that the future of our fatherland will be an eternal Baragua.

Long live our glorious party! [Crowd responds: "Viva!"] Long live Fidel! [Crowd responds: "Viva!"] Socialism or death! Fatherland or death, we will win!

Minister Attends Education Conference in Thailand

FL0803160490 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] Cuba has asked international banks, creditors of the heavy foreign debt burden, for concrete measures to make possible the proposal, made by UNESCO, of dedicating no less than five percent of the debt to education. Speaking at an international conference in

Thailand, Cuban Education Minister Jose Ramon Fernandez said Latin America and the Caribbean wish that the participants of the forum not only discuss the difficult situation the area countries are facing, but also find viable solutions and new alternatives that can guarantee education for all.

He noted that according to UNESCO figures, the number of illiterate people in the world exceeds one billion. Fernandez is heading the Cuban delegation attending the Education for All in the Year 2000 international conference, which began on 5 March in (Hiong Thien).

Another Demonstration Held at Dissident's House

FL0903021290 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0034 GMT 9 Mar 90

[From the "Exclusivo" program]

[Excerpt] An unprecedented crowd of people has been at H Street between 13th and 15th in Vedado since early this afternoon, when an energetic mass demonstration of CDR [Committe for the Defense of the Revolution] and FMC [Federation of Cuban Women] members, students, construction workers, and workers from nearby places gathered in front of house number 305, where (Gustavo Arco Bernes)—who has identified himself as a member of a small counterrevolutionary group—lives.

The demonstration began spontaneously around noon, and has exceeded all preliminary calculations of the number of people. By the end of the afternoon it had become an insistent avalanche that forcefully sang and chanted in support of socialism and Fidel, so a climate of revolutionary reaffirmation was created. [passage omitted]

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Quayle To Meet With Six OECS Leaders

FL0803175790 Bridgetown CANA in English 1620 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Report by Rickey Singh]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 8, CANA—Finance and economic issues are expected to feature highly in separate meetings here between Caribbean community (Caricom) leaders and U.S. Vice-President Dan Quayle and later with Canada's Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. An indication of this has come from Barbados Prime Minister, Erskine Sandiford who will on Friday [9 March] host Vice-President Quayle and five Caricom prime ministers, as well as one deputy prime minister.

Sandiford, who in ten days time will also be hosting Prime Minister Mulroney when he arrives here on a three-day visit, told CANA that he was looking forward to these meetings resulting in "strengthening of the special ties" that exist between the Caribbean Community countries and the U.S.A. and Canada.

Caricom's problems with even the revised Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI); its Canadian version—Caribcan; declining economic aid to the region; the dangerous implications for the Caribbean of the illicit drug trade, as well as recurring problems relating to West Indian farm labourers in North America, are expected to be among matters to be discussed.

Vice-President Quayle and Mrs. Quayle will spend less than 24 hours in Barbados. A tight programme has been arranged to include, said one official spokesman, "reasonable time" for an important round-table session between Quayle, his host, Sandiford and six leaders of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

The OECS leaders expected for the Quayle meeting, are: Prime Ministers James Mitchell of St. Vincent and the Grenadines; Ms. Eugenia Charles of Dominica, Dr. Kennedy Simmonds of St. Kitts-Nevis; John Compton of St. Lucia; and Ben Jones of Grenada, as well as deputy prime minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Lester Bird.

Among the Eastern Caribbean heads of government, Prime Minister Compton has recently been consistently critical of declining economic aid and foreign investment from Western countries, which he feels are neglecting the Caribbean as they become increasingly involved in providing assistance to Eastern Europe.

"The aid flows to the Caribbean from the U.S.A.," Compton said last month, "have all but dried up while Canada, which announced that it was doubling its aid to the Caribbean, had now severely reduced such aid...."

Compton feels that "the strategic position and importance which we thought we had has now been downgraded. The East-West card which many thought we had and could use as a trump card, is now a mere joker in the pack."

While total Canadian aid to Caricom for 1989 could not be confirmed by the Canadian High Commission in Barbados, the entire Eastern Caribbean received approximately CDN 31 million dollars of some CDN 160 million dollars in government-to-government projects for the Latin American-Caribbean region.

Total U.S. development assistance to the Caribbean region, including Haiti and the Dominican Republic, for last year was just below U.S. 100 million dollars, with the Caricom portion estimated at less than U.S. 45 million dollars.

For the March 18-20 visit by the Canadian prime minister, who will be accompanied by Mrs. Mulroney, "most if not all" of the 13 Caricom heads of government are expected by the Barbados Government.

Canada, as a leading Commonwealth member in this hemisphere, has a long trading relationship with the Caribbean dating back to the 17th century, a trade link

that has been mostly in Canada's favour. Canada's recent accession to membership of the Organisation of American States (OAS) has evoked mixed feelings among Caricom governments and organisations. Some feel that it could prove "a useful influence" within this hemispheric body, while others think it could be more to the advantage of its giant neighbour, the U.S.A.

Prime Minister Sandiford told CANA that the visits by Vice-President Quayle and Prime Minister Mulroney are of particular significance to Barbados whose biggest trading partners are the U.S.A. and Canada. Sandiford said that with all of the significant international developments currently taking place, these visits provide the governments of Caricom with the opportunity to objectively review how best they could strengthen their relations with the U.S.A. and Canada at the start of this new and final decade of the 20th century.

Among the Caricom heads coming for the Mulroney visit will be Guyana's President Desmond Hoyte whose government is banking heavily on Canada's influence as head of a seven-nation "support group" seeking to put together a financing package for its three-year Economic Recovery Programme [ERP], that itself is tied to an agreement with the International Monetary Fund.

Canadian parliamentarians and church-related development and human rights agencies in Canada have been expressing their interest in favour of an improved "human rights climate" in Guyana while Canada moves to assist the Hoyte government's Economic Recovery Programme.

Jamaica's Prime Minister Michael Manley will be coming with his own special emphasis on the need for a new initiative to deal with the region's debt crisis. He has been calling for a special group of experts from the developed and underdeveloped nations to define an agenda and to think through afresh what "sensible and pragmatic modifications" to the policies of the IMF and the World Bank could be implemented to help "release an important part of mankind (in the Third World) from the present paralysis of its situation."

The Jamaican Government is also said to be deeply concerned that Jamaican and other West Indian farm workers do not suffer unfair advantages to, for example, Mexican labourers.

Bahamas

Government Seeks Maritime Boundary Delimitation

FL0803193290 Bridgetown CANA in English 1902 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] Nassau, the Bahamas, March 8, CANA—Significant matters of paramount national interest to the Bahamas must be negotiated with Cuba, Foreign Affairs Minister Charles Carter has said.

Carter, who also spoke on the Haitian problem, told the Bahamas Press Club that the government here must negotiate with Cuba over the delimitation of the maritime boundaries of the Bahamas. Cuba has for sometime expressed an interest in a closer relationship with the Bahamas, Carter said.

The Bahamas has long maintained non-resident diplomatic relations with Cuba, "but it has not been in our national interest to foster very close ties with the Castro regime," he remarked. However, there are matters of paramont national interest relations with Cuba, not least of which includes the delimitation of the Bahamas' maritime boundaries, he said. Cuba is the Bahamas' neighbour to the south.

"The Bahamas has always maintained cordial relations with Cuba and these can be expected to continue," Carter said.

"We hope that the liberalization which has developed in the vast majority of socialist countries will also be fostered in Cuba and in that line we would encourage the timely normalization of relations between the United States of America and Cuba."

Carter said that the new United States-backed government in Panama and the decisive election victory of opposition forces in Nicaragua will have repercussions in Cuba which may be of great interest to the Bahamas.

On the Haitian problem, Carter said that the Bahamas Government has sought to obtain an agreement with Haiti for the orderly repatriation of illegal immigrants. The Bahamas has sought to have that agreement confirmed and formalized in a bilateral immigration treaty. Carter said that a Haitian-Bahamian Treaty was concluded between both governments in 1985, but that its execution has been "less than satisfactory."

Barbados

Sandiford on Role of Whites in Development

FL0903022690 Bridgetown CANA in English 0040 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 8, CANA—Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford has quickly responded to a private sector call for a clear statement on whether whites have a role to play in the development of the Barbados economy. "The Government of Barbados is committed to guaranteeing all rights and freedoms enshrined in the country's constitution, including protection from racial discrimination," a government release quoted Sandiford as saying.

At the close of a two-day conference organised by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, on mobilising national resources, some participants noted the racist overtones in a continuing national debate on the need for greater participation of the 97 per cent black population in the business sector. They said whites wanted the

statement from the government so they could decide whether to continue investments in the economy.

Former Central Bank Governor, Dr Courtney Blackman, said even a cabinet minister had been making racist statements.

"We are committed to the basic tenets of a democratic society, justice, fairplay and equality in all spheres of life," Sandiford said, adding that this had been borne out in many speeches he had made. Sandiford recalled that when he addressed the opening of the conference on Monday [5 March], he had noted that the effective implementation of any programme of action to harness national resources would require the full cooperation of all sectors as social partners.

Grenada

Mitchell Confident About Role After Election

FL0803192890 Bridgetown CANA in English 1849 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Report by George Worme]

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, March 8, CANA—At 43, former professor of mathematics Dr. Keith Mitchell is confident he could be the next prime minister of Grenada at the head of a New National Party (NNP) government.

"Every one of us involved in politics is in there for power. We are not in there for marble games," he says to critics who suggest that he is power-hungry. Mitchell, who was sacked last year from the cabinet of the late Prime Minister Herbert Blaize, and who was a foundation member of the New Jewel Movement that toppled Sir Eric Gairy in a 1979 coup, speaks in conciliatory tones about his opponents.

Mitchell said that he could like to be seen as a politician who believes in forgiveness and national unity and as such did not have any hatred for the National Democratic Congress (NDC)—an NNP break-away party—which he accused of always castigating him on the platform.

"...I hope that one day they would recognize that I am not what they perceive me to be and that we can sit down and work in the areas of our skills," he told CANA. Mitchell said that an NNP government would certainly allow NDC's two deputy political leaders, barrister Dr. Francis Alexis and educator George Brizan, to use their skills towards the betterment of the country. Most of the top members of the NDC were once involved with Mitchell in the NNP. The NNP was formed to contest the December 1984 elections, with the backing of the U.S and several Caribbean governments, to prevent either Gairy or leftists returning to power after a bloody palace coup.

With confidence, Mitchell speaks about the contribution he wants to make towards the development of Grenada and its smaller ward islands. "Whether I am in politics or government or not, I believe I have a serious role to play in the country," he says. "I have a serious skill as a professional and whether I am in government or not, I am prepared to give of my experience that I picked up in the U.S."

He first entered politics in 1972 running on a ticket of Blaize's Grenada National Party (GNP) but lost heavily in the contest for the St. George's north west seat with late Finance Minister George Hosten of Gairy's Grenada United Labour Party (GULP), which won the elections 13 seats to two.

He was also a foundation member of the New Jewel Movement (NJM), in 1972 serving as its first public relations officer under the late Maurice Bishop. Mitchell broke ranks with the party shortly after it seized power from Gairy in 1979. In 1982, he joined with a number of overseas Grenadian leaders to form the Grenada Democratic Movement (GDM) with headquarters in Washington and from its foreign base was critical of Bishop's People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) for its record on human rights, including curtailment of the press, and detention of persons without trial.

After the collapse of the PRG, Mitchell returned to Grenada and joined forces with the GNP and the National Democratic Party (NDP) of George Brizan to form the NNP for the 1984 general elections.

Mitchell's sojourn under the leadership of Blaize soon became stormy. Problems came to a head last year January with his wresting leadership of the party from the then almost completely crippled leader. The move, which saw Blaize maintain leadership of the parliamentary group, led to claims that Mitchell was power-hungry. It was a move which many political observers felt worsened the already fragile relations between the two and helped trigger Mitchell's dismissal from the cabinet last July. After sacking Mitchell, Blaize and a few loyalists formed The National Party (TNP) leaving Mitchell and his supporters with the NNP.

Mitchell said that he had no apology to make for accepting the party's leadership at the time since it was felt that it was the best thing to do. Mitchell feels that subsequent events have vindicated him.

He points in particular to the controversial decision taken by Blaize a few days before his death in December to sell to the British giant, Cable and Wireless, the majority shares of the Grenada Telecommunications Limited (Grentel) to raise money to pay salary increases to protesting civil servants. Mitchell says he is convinced that if "we had not moved to the leadership and and Herbert Blaize went the way he did, all of us would have been dead politically."

"I am very proud of the fact that we did not wait for Mr. Blaize to die before we looked at the question of the

leader," he added. Mitchell is more widely known at home by the nickname "Dr. Stone" after his decision in early 1985 as then communications minister to import stone from St. Vincent and the Grenadines to complete a road programme. But there is nothing stony about his position on his rival Gairy who many say could be the power broker in the four way contest.

"There is no question about a union between Gairy and myself. I think we have a warm feeling for each other. I think he deserves to live a comfortable life as a former leader of the country but I don't believe this is a period for him to return as head of government," he said. He sees the task ahead for the nation as one of bringing about national unity then buckling down to tackle the economic problems "in a serious manner."

Mitchell represented the island in cricket at the Windward islands level between 1964 and 11968, and 1972 to 1973. Between those years, he was a student at the University of the West Indies' Cave Hill, Barbados, campus getting a bachelors degree in mathematics and chemistry. From 1973 to 1973 [as received], he was at Howard University in Washington D.C. working on his masters in mathematics, and from 1975 to 19—[as received] studied for his doctorate in statistics at American University in Washington. After graduating, he became a professor of mathematics at Howard and headed a consultancy firm which at times did some work for the U.S government on budgetary matters. Next Tuesday [13 March] he bids for a job as head of government.

Haiti

Further on Avril Interview on Current Situation

FL0803145690 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 2300 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Interview with Lieutenant General Prosper Avril by unidentified reporters at the National Palace in Port-au-Prince on 7 March—recorded]

[Text] [Avril] The political situation is really deteriorating in the wake of these antigovernment demonstrations. But what I learn from all this is that the solution to the crisis should not go that route.

Now, there are children exposed. The lives of children are exposed out in the streets and I think that as responsible people...[changes thought] for we have never cut off dialogue. I think that we should have employed dialogue before undertaking these kinds of demonstrations that serve only to set our country back. So, what do I intend to do? Well, it is still the same answer. I intend to relaunch the dialogue to see exactly how to solve the problem.

We have read in the newspapers certain alternatives that have been presented...[changes thought] for it is not a matter of simply saying that General Avril must leave power, because, actually, we are here...[changes thought] We have always said that it is not, pleasant for us to be here. We know that our leaving power will cause many things to happen in Haiti. I really wonder if that is the right thing to do because I think it would be in my interest, as an individual, to go home, to leave power and return home. However, as a government official, I have to ask myself if it is in the best interests of the country.

What will happen if I just leave power this way? What will the consequences be? How will people react? And what will the balance sheet look like? Because we always thought it was a matter of going to elections so an elected civilian president could replace us here.

[Reporter] What is your position on the alternative proposed by the civilian society committee and the political parties? Are you ready to leave power?

[Avril] Actually, this is the same question! What does the proposed alternative say? It says to turn the government over to a member of the Court of Cassation who will be assisted by a nine-member council. I think that in a country like Haiti this will cause many problems. First of all, much ink is going to flow in connection with the choice of these nine members.

Next, I had always planned on a constitutional solution. This is not a constitutional solution, thus, people are not going to trust it. I mean, if you now have 11 or 12 parties in agreement, after the adoption of this solution the other parties will not be in agreement. Then, too, the fact that a group of 11 was, let us say, 100-percent victorious regarding a proposed solution, will already mean that the elections will be controlled, that the results of the balloting will favor one or another of these 11 or 12 or however many parties. I do not remember exactly how many.

In my opinion, the solution must lie within the framework of the law. First of all, there is the matter of the elections. From the beginning we have always believed it was a matter of holding elections under the best possible conditions. That is why we launched our Cedha [proposed electoral council] back on 7 November. As I have already explained on several occasions, we wanted democratic proceedings.

Now we have reached the point where there exists a CEP [Permanent Electoral Council] composed of people sent by the socioprofessional organizations and formed according to the recommendations of the political parties. I think that if there is a problem with the CEP, we should have worked to correct it. For example, one thing that could be done is that the organizations could consider changing their members. Next...

[Reporter, interrupting] Mr. President, political parties [words indistinct] elections with you at the head of the government. Thus, elections would take place without the participation of these political parties, which are nevertheless very representative.

[Avril] No, I mean, we are not there yet. We have not yet reached election day. That is why I tell you we should try to engage in dialogue to see if we can find a better solution, because the uprooting of one's cassava plants is not Haiti's solution. And furthermore, I do not think it is indispensable to arrive at that point. For I have always said, and repeated, that I am not concerned in this matter. I mean, I have never said I was a candidate.

And I am still not a candidate for the presidency. I have carried out the recommendations exactly: what I was asked to do. I have an independent CEP. I have asked for the support of organizations like the United Nations and the OAS. I do not see why such elections would not be credible. If in Nicaragua they were able to hold elections under Ortega, who was himself both president and a candidate, and Ortega did not win, I do not see why elections held here, elections in which I am not a candidate, and elections with the same level of international protection and perhaps other organizations which we are going to invite; I do not see why we should not have credible elections in Haiti!

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] election period, Mr. President.

[Avril] No, I am saying that there is always, there is still...[changes thought] the matter is open.

[Reporter] All right. That is not my real question. You spoke of prospects of the post-Avril period. What balance sheet are you talking about? If you leave power under these conditions what will the balance sheet look like?

[Avril] No, when I say balance sheet, I mean the damages that might...

[Reporter, interrupting] [Words indistinct] chaos, Mr. President?

[Avril] Ah, I myself am almost certain that this can cause problems.

[Reporter] Mr. President, are you going to agree to undertake investigations with either political parties or people...

[Avril, interrupting] Always!

[Reporter, continuing] ...to leave power?

[Avril] Always! Why do you have to say: to leave power? I mean, if we could reach a solution that does not involve clashes I would be happy to go home. However, I am sure that this is not the way things are going .

[Reporter] In your opinion, what would this chaos be like?

[Avril] There will be...[changes thought] ah, no, you can be sure there will be things in the street! I mean, do you think that changing a government, uprooting cassava plants can be done just like that? With no fuss? I do not think so.

[Reporter] Mr. President, the situation is serious. If things get worse, would you be willing to hand over the government?

[Avril] First of all, in talking about handing over the government, you need to at least know how things will go. Second, you have to know to whom to turn over the government. I mean, there is talk of a member of the Court of Cassation and there is talk of nine sages. Have these nine sages already been designated? I mean, at what stage is the problem exactly? When one is responsibly leading a country, one cannot just up and say: I am handing over the government.

[Reporter] Have you had it with the government, with all these problems?

[Avril] I beg your pardon?

[Reporter] Have you had it with all these problems in the country?

[Avril] Oh yes! Oh yes! [laughs] You cannot imagine. I have not been really living since I came here. But I feel bound to my work because I am trying to avoid a national disaster. That is the only reason I am here.

[Reporter] Mr. President, elections, if they are held in one year...

[Avril, interrupting] Why? Why in one year?

[Reporter] Next October, in nine months perhaps. Will these elections solve the problem; allow your departure without clashes and without problems, without difficulties and without...

[Avril, interrupting] Provided there are elections. As soon as there are elections, the majority of the population will reach a decision. There will be international observers.

The CEP will proclaim the results. And there will be no reason for the transfer of power not to be peaceful. We have an independent CEP, legally. The executive branch of the government has its role to play, but as you surely know, the CEP is also a branch of the government, the electoral branch of the government. Now, because of internal problems, the CEP has stopped work or is in the process of evaluating things. The problem that has come up in connection with the calendar can always be solved, either through a consensus reached with the CEP or, to the extent that things cannot be settled quickly, well, at that point the executive will have a valid reason to intervene and say: here is what we propose to the nation.

However, I think it would be a good idea to call the CEP before, to see what it intends to do.

[Reporter, in Creole] One of the problems is distrust, lack of confidence, a crisis of confidence in Gen. Avril. There is the high cost of living which is one of the points that it is said over the radio that....

[Avril, interrupting, switching to Creole] No, the crisis of confidence cannot be mixed in with the high cost of living!

[Reporter, continuing in Creole] No, I mean, there are different points that go into....

[Avril, interrupting] Here is where the crisis of confidence comes from: if you look at the history of Haiti, these are the first elections to be announced from this angle—honest, open, etc. This is the first time there will be a CEP holding an election with support from international institutions. And when we say support, I mean it is much more than mere observation.

[Reporter] Assistance, too?

[Avril] Assistance. They will be there. They will be indicating what needs to be done. They will be helping. They will be buying things to help. They will be giving the CEP advice, etc. And this is the first time this is going to be done. Second, this is the first time international observers will be coming to observe things up close all over the country. This is the first time the nation's current president says he is not involved with the elections. The Department of the Interior and everyone is outside the elections. This is the first time there is no one who can say that the current president favors any particular candidate. This is the first time the current president says he is not a candidate himself.

So, no one believes something like this can really happen—unless it really happens. That, in my opinion, is what is at the root of many things they talk about in connection with a crisis of confidence.

[Reporter] So you think this is what has created the crisis of confidence?

[Avril] I have that impression.

[Reporter] Gen. Avril, if we take the political actions you have undertaken and the statements you have made....I could quote statements you have made which leaders—of political groups and parties, of course—have deemed to be in contradiction with things you have done.

[Avril] Uh-huh?

[Reporter] And then we come to the end of January, with the measures that you took....

[Avril, interrupting] You make contradictory statements. You have to give me the statements.

[Reporter] There have been contradictory statements. Gen. Avril told the people to hold elections, but then Gen. Avril toured the central plateau or southern Haiti and said the people needed food for there to be good elections.

[Avril] There is no contradiction! What is the contradiction there?

[Reporter] The people who are going to participate in the elections, is it [words indistinct] election? Gen. Avril said....

[Avril] No, no, no, no, no, no! Let me stop you right there! The fact that I said people had to eat to go to elections does not mean that there will not be any elections! Especially since it is I who published the calendar; I who published the electoral law; I who published everything! This was a wish that for the elections to be really good, the situation would have to improve!

[Reporter] But you are aware that this election will not be held.

[Avril] No. It has not yet arrived. The election. I mean, you are still here. Who is to say the situation will remain like it is, all the way to the election?

[Reporter] In a year.

[Avril] But it is not in a year! There will not be elections. Well, generally, when they speak of elections, you would say they are talking about presidential elections.

[Reporter] Mr. President, how do you view this anti-Avril movement being organized in the provincial towns. The government has been in power since 17 September 1988 and these movements have already resulted in one dead and several wounded in Petit Goave.

[Avril] Well, you say these movements involve something that you call actions being carried out. This is natural. But no. No, no. Just listen. We are living in a democracy, right? I do not think that a government in power, just because there are two or three demonstrations held in which people say down with the government, is going to rush away. If this were the case no government would ever remain in power. You will perhaps have noticed that in 1986 and 1987 there were many demonstrations. That is not where the problem lies. I would have preferred for these not to have happened, and I think they should not have happened to that extent, considering that I myself am always open to dialogue. Before things came to this, I would have preferred for us to come and work so you could tell me on what points you disagreed with me.

I will give you an example. A government is not something that walks around in the streets. When they talk about points and so forth, I myself have to read about them in the paper, or hear them over the radio. They do not write me to tell me about them. Thus, the dialogue that has been opened, well, there is a link missing in the chain, and this can cause many things to degenerate because it is a lot of work conducting a government; it requires much attention.

[Reporter] How can you explain, Mr. President, the fact that political parties right after 17 September 1988 came here to the National Palace, met with you, visited you, and began, precisely, a dialogue until February of 1988

at the forum that you held. How can you explain the fact that these same political parties today—and not the most insignificant of them either; I can list Serge Gilles' Panpra [Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti], Marc Bazin's MIDH [Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti], and other parties known for their moderation—well, these parties now say they will no longer negotiate with Gen. Avril, and are asking for the departure of Gen. Avril. How can you explain this change?

[Avril] Well, it happens. As you know, human minds are changeable things. And, as people say, one never swims in the same river twice; the water is constantly changing. Also, there is a matter of the evaluation of the situation. This sometimes leads one person to interpret something that has been said differently from the way another person interprets it. Notice, for example, that after those events I contacted the parties you are talking about. I mean, right after those events this is not the position they took. It is things that happened later that led them to adopt these positions. I myself, personally, talked with leaders who understood what kind of situation I was in, for things do not always turn out exactly the way you would like, as I said in the news conference.

[Reporter] Do you think, from the behavior of the ones you are talking about, that there are people pushing them?

[Avril] Well, I would never say that. These are responsible people! I would do better to ask a journalist who is out running through the streets all day seeking information what he has. However, I have noticed, for example—the press can hear this too—that a statement can be put out on 1 February in a certain way and then on 3 February it comes out completely reversed. This means that if I try to explain why so-and-so, who was in agreement with me at such-and-such a time, came at such-and-such a time later to not agree with me; well, there is not a lot I can say to you. This depends on things that went on in the person's head, and on the analyses the person made and the conclusions he reached to end up with any given decision. Because you must take into consideration that these are political decisions. In politics you cannot remain straight.

[Reporter] General, I am going to ask you a question that is perhaps much more intimate. Do you sincerely believe that from 17 September 1988 to 7 March 1990 you have acted in such a manner as to retain the confidence of the Haitian population in general?

[Avril] Well, way down deep inside I think I have always remained on the line. However, on the level of perception regarding the way people see the things we do, there could be several interpretations. And I think that everything I did was in the same direction. I mean, everything I am doing is what I have planned. And the political leaders can—for I assume they are honest—say that what they see unfolding is the way we told them it would be; is the way we presented it to them.

We had presented them with two alternatives: a quick one and a slow one. They told me they preferred the quick one. It is the quick one that resulted in this, the installation of a new government on 7 February 1991. They knew it. They had seen it. If I had the document here, I would show it to you. As we went along, certain elements that made them want to change came up. And we ourselves, in our own analyses, are always willing to have dialogue. We are always willing to analyze whatever they present. However, with the existence of an independent CEP, the discretionary power that we used to have has diminished. There are many things that must be channeled through the CEP.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct].

[Avril] No, I myself have always said that popular sovereignty should be respected. If these demonstrations were really to spread all over Haiti, it would mean that that is what the Haitian people want and I could do nothing but bow to the people's will. When it is the Haitian people who ask, all we can do is assemble the different authorities, political party leaders, and the nation's officials. I mean, everyone thinks the government is in charge of the country. [switches to French] There are the main leading citizens of this country, this country's true sages. [switches to Creole] I would assemble them to [words indistinct] what we should do.

[Reporter, in French] Yes, but to finish, this means you have already reached your decision [words indistinct] 7 February 1991.

[Avril, in French] No, I have not. Why would I say that? [Switches to Creole] I never said that! That I am here to stay until 7 February 1991! There is not anything pleasurable in being head of this government, let me tell you! People think it is fun? In the last alternative, I do not see why they put in the statement that the transfer of power must take place on 7 February 1991. However, I do not think they can wait all that time with the country at the point it is now. We would need a consensus to see what we could do.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct].

[Avril] A civilian government of transition? Well, I think I see two stages there. In my opinion, the basis of the matter is to do something no one can find anything to criticize. If you do something now that some other group can come and find fault with, this could cause problems. You would have to do something about which no one can find anything to criticize. I mean, the Constitution talks about the president of the Court of Cassation. The Constitution also says that for the president to take power, he must have a legislative chamber with him. Well, that would be an intermediate solution—to have that chamber, and then the president of the chamber could take power.

That is something that, constitutionally, no one could say anything about.

[Reporter, in French] In the Constitution, this is in the case of transitory measures.

[Avril, in Creole] No! That is not any transitory measure. That is (?fully) in the Constitution.

[Reporter, in French] Mr. President, we will not [words indistinct] exhausted. I am not going to ask you a question. It is more of a reflection. Are you now willing to admit to the Haitian people [words indistinct]. Based on your conscience as a man, as a Haitian; and your conscience as an official, the head of a military government and the person responsible for the country; the way things are going, do you have a message for the Haitian people? For the entire nation?

[Avril, in Creole] Well, under the current circumstances, I think that now more than ever the citizens of this country should be aware of the fact that they must unite so we will not lose the country; unite to not lose the country. Because I could tell them that facing them they have a man who....[changes thought] many circumstances are leading people to believe many things. However, they have before them a fellow who sincerely, deeply desires the good of this country. And I think that if we do not ourselves unite, there could be a danger that others will come to make us unite. From the very first interview I gave Canadian television, I have been saying that I am not a candidate for the presidency. And since I have declared that elections are the only way for there to be a transition to democracy without conflict; and since we have taken steps to have international authorities come and verify the veracity, credibility, and reliability of the coming elections; and since the government is not going to try to control, to interfere in the elections, I do not see why the Haitian people do not get together with both the CEP and the government to hold elections, so we can get out of this situation. The other day I said four years was too long. Well, it seems the message did not get through. It is really too long! We must get out of this situation and I think the best way to get out is not through uprooting cassava plants or by sending children out into the streets and having accidents happen! We think it is by getting together to hold elections. If the electoral calendar needs to be revised, let it be revised. If actions need to be taken, let the actions be taken so we can try to save the country.

[Reporter, in mixed French and Creole] [Passage indistinct]. I would like to have your impression on this, and also; how are your relations with the U.S. Embassy?

[Avril] My relations with the U.S. Embassy?

[Reporter, in French] And also, you are among the last military leaders in Latin America and the Caribbean. What are your impressions [words indistinct].

[Avril, in Creole] Well, you cannot tell me I am the last military leader in the Caribbean, because the others are definitive presidents. I am not a definitive president. I am a military man who came here to carry out a mission, the mission of organizing the transition to democracy. Now, the mission is coming along and has reached a point where it has encountered a problem. I am not at the same stage as the other military leaders who were presidents and who had all their government apparatuses in place, and who came to a point where they could no longer continue and therefore did not continue. I myself never came with the intention of staying. I never came with the intention of staying here. I came here to hold elections. And I thought that by taking all the necessary steps I would arrive at them. Now I think it is still not too late for us to get together to achieve this.

[Reporter, in French] And concerning your relations with the U.S. Embassy?

[Avril, in French] My relations with the U.S. Embassy are diplomatic relations. I mean, I have no quarrel with the U.S. Embassy.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] remain on as commander in chief of the Army after the transfer of power has been effected?

[Avril] Well, I am currently head of the Army, and that is going to depend on a decision based on the juncture. [switches to Creole] I will have to take a look, once everything is settled. I mean, once we have managed to sit down at a single table with everyone. We will look and see how things are going to be done [switches to French] and that is a personal matter. [switches to Creole] We are going to reflect upon the matter, to know what we are going to do, because I do not live alone. I have a wife and children. We must analyze this matter together and...

[Reporter, interrupting] And how are things going for the family?

[Avril] The family is fine. Of course things are very difficult. If I were to tell you what I am going through you would not believe it.

[Reporter] Tell us. We will believe it.

[Avril] No, you will not believe it. Because, as you know, we have four children, and there is my wife. Before I came here, it took a lot of begging to get her to accept—because if I had not come here back then, the country would have blown up. I mean, all of you...[changes thought] the Haitian people seem to have forgotten what was going on in the streets of Port-au-Prince back when I came here. They have forgotten what was happening within the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] when I came here. The FADH, which was the only institution remaining that could hold on, the only one which supposedly did not have, let us say, irreparable and serious problems. Well, a lot of begging went on back then. And to this day—and all along the way—there is a lot of praying going on, to see if we can stay and carry out our mission. Because as a soldier, we do not have a right to run away. That is why we are still here.

[Reporter] General Avril, thank you on behalf of Tele-Haiti and Radio Metropole.

[Avril] Thank you very much.

Government Issues Two Communiques on Situation

FL0803183590 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Excerpt] We have two communiques for you: one is from the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Coordination; the other is from the Ministry of Interior and National Defense. Then we will have you listen to the complete interview on the political juncture that the president of the military government granted Radio Metropole and Tele-Haiti.

First, here is the communique from the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Coordination. It says the Directorate of Information of the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Coordination announces that the investigating committee formed by the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] General Headquarters to investigate the death of Rosemine [first name as heard] Vaval is unable to carry out its mission properly. The body of the deceased was taken from the morgue at the hospital in Petit Goave by her relatives on the night of 6 March.

Recalling that the cause of the death of this little girl has caused tremendous turmoil, the investigating committee asks the child's relatives and the population of Petit Goave to exhibit understanding and permit the health services of Notre Dame Hospital to perform an autopsy. If not, a serious investigation cannot be conducted.

This is a communique from the Directorate of Information of the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Information.

The communique from the Ministry of Interior and National Defense says the following: The Ministry of Interior and National Defense announces that the military government has noted with much consternation the unscrupulous secret plots of certain professional manipulators who are trying by all means to get schoolchildren and university students in Haiti to turn away from their studies to, without prior authorization, effect street demonstrations—with all the unforeseen consequences that this might involve.

The ministry calls on the population in general, and parents in particular, to not allow themselves to be used by these agitators who expose the small children of this gallant people they claim to be defending to all kinds of regrettable, and sometimes even irreparable, incidents.

The military government deplores the actions of these adventurers and invites everyone to be levelheaded. It invites them to be lucid and remain calm while reiterating its commitment to guaranteeing the ongoing democratic and electoral process.

This communique from the Ministry of Interior and National Defense is signed by Fritz Romulus, Brigadier General, FADH, G-2, Minister of Interior and National Defense. [passage omitted]

Thousands Said Demonstrating in Port-au-Prince

PA0803175290 Paris AFP in Spanish 1725 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 8 Mar (AFP)—The AFP correspondent here has confirmed that thousands of youths were demonstrating this morning to demand that President General Prosper Avril step down.

The demonstrators, who were chanting slogans against Avril, gathered following a funeral for an 11-year-old student who was killed on 5 March by soldiers in Petit Goave (68 km southeast of the capital).

The demonstrators burned tires in several parts of the eastern sector of the city, especially in Bel Air, where the funeral was held.

On 7 March, the country's main political parties—from communist to moderate centrists—called for a popular uprising to force General Avril to step down.

One Reported Killed

PA0803195590 Paris AFP in Spanish 1925 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 8 Mar (AFP)—The AFP correspondent here has confirmed the death of a man who was shot in front the National Palace when soldiers dispersed an antigovernment demonstration.

The incident occurred when about 1,000 demonstrators were marching toward the esplanade in front the Palace shouting slogans against President General Prosper Avril and demanding his removal.

At that moment, several trucks filled with soldiers came out of the palace gate and dispersed the demonstrators with clubs and gunfire.

After the demonstration was dispersed, the body of a man was left on the street at the spot where the militia intervened, according to the AFP correspondent.

2 More Reportedly Killed in Port-au-Prince

PA0903040690 Paris AFP in Spanish 0226 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 8 Mar (AFP)—Two more persons—one soldier and one civilian—were killed today in Carrefour, a suburb south of Port-au-Prince, the private Radio Metropoli of Port-au-Prince announced today.

The soldier, who was riding a motorcycle, was beaten to death by demonstrators who were avenging a civilian that had been killed by another group of soldiers, the source reported.

Williams Jean-Louis, a reporter from Radio Metropoli, described the situation tonight in that area as "out of control" as the demonstrators threw stones at passing vehicles.

These two deaths bring to three the number of persons killed in Port-au-Prince. Another person was killed in front of the National Palace when a group of demonstrators, demanding the resignation of General Prosper Avril, president of the military government, was dispersed.

Avril took over on 17 September 1988 following a coup d'etat staged by the Army. He is facing the most serious crisis since an attempted coup following a military rebellion in April 1989.

The students, supported by businessmen and the church, are asking Avril to leave power. The demonstrations taking place in the capital city are starting to extend to the provinces.

Eleven of the most important political parties, ranging from the communists to those of the moderate center, tonight called for a "total" mobilization against Gen. Avril.

On 7 March, Avril mentioned the possibility he might leave power "if the sovereign will of the people so decided, and if the other sectors responsible for the nation guaranteed a transition of power with no confrontations."

Army Orders No Violence Against Civilians

PA0803145590 Paris AFP in Spanish 1400 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 8 Mar (AFP)—The Haitian Army High Command today issued an official communique asking the military commanders of the country's nine departments to do everything possible so officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers "do not use any violence against civilians and respect the physical integrity of civilians."

The communique was issued after the country's main political parties called for a popular uprising to force President Prosper Avril to relinquish power.

Media Reports on Anti-Avril Demonstrations

FL0803164790

[Editorial report] Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French at 1700 GMT on 7 March carries a five-minute report from various correspondents in the provinces on the anti-Avril demonstrations. All correspondents' reports are in Creole

Correspondent Lionel Exantus in Saint-Marc reports that three people have been arrested for setting fire to tires that had been erected as barricades.

An unidentified correspondent in Petit Goave reports that "2,000 or 3,000 people took to the streets to ask General Avril to relinquish power." He further reports that the demonstrators tried to set fire to a vehicle carrying a government delegation headed by General Serge St-Elois who had come to investigate the circumstances surrounding the death of Roseline Vaval [young girl killed in 5 March demonstration]. The correspondent adds that the three-man delegation "was also stoned" by the demonstrators.

The report continues with correspondent Pierre Nazon Boliere in Jacmel. He reports that students from the Lycee Pinchinat "took to the streets to demonstrate their displeasure with what happened to Roseline Vaval."

The report carries a summary of events from correspondent Ertho Zamor in Jeremie. He reports that schools were closed and government offices that were "not guarded militarily were shut down by demonstrators."

The report concludes with correspondent Ferguson Legros in Gonaives reporting that schools were closed but public offices remained open. He further notes that the military "were patrolling all over town." The correspondent concludes by citing notes of protest and indignation sent by the Justice and Peace Committee and the Catholic Workers Action in which they extend their condolences to Roseline Vaval's parents and also demand that "Gen. Avril quickly resign."

Port-au-Prince Radio Antilles Internationales in French at 1930 GMT on 7 March carries a three-minute report on the anti-Avril demonstrations. The correspondents' reports are in Creole.

Correspondent Evens Lefvre in Leogane reports that "5,000 to 6,000 people, most of them schoolchildren, took to the streets to demand that Gen. Avril step down as head of the government."

The report concludes with a summary of events from correspondent Charite Thelot in Mirebalais. The correspondent says that "thousands of schoolchildren took to the streets to demand the resignation of the head of the military government." The correspondent further states that 2,000 to 3,000 students were crying loudly: "Down with Gen. Avril." The correspondent concludes by relaying that "no soldiers were present at all, that public offices were open, but that schools were closed."

Further Reports

FL0803194690

[Editorial report] Port-au-Prince Radio Antilles Internationales in French at 1230 GMT on 8 March carries a one-minute report from correspondent Hermann Hermano in Gonaives. The correspondent reports that "no students attended school today and that the students continue to issue press releases, one more violently than the other against General Prosper Avril." He notes that barricades continue to burn in numerous streets in Gonaives.

Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French at 1500 GMT on 8 March carries a two-minute report on anti-Avril activities. The report announces that "a symbolic funeral [for Roseline Vaval] will be held at Cavalry [hill,

in the Bel-Air section of Port-au-Prince] at midmorning." The report adds that schools remain closed. The report notes that only a few businesses are closed; and that burning barricades were erected, but "without blocking traffic."

The newscast continues with a report from correspondent Lionel Exantus in Saint-Marc. The correspondent, speaking in Creole, reports that a demonstration by 1,000 people "shut down public offices, the post office, the tax office, and city hall." He concludes by saying that "all the policemen have remained inside their barracks."

Employers' Group Calls for Avril To Step Down

FL0803204290 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Excerpt] The position of Haitian employers in the current crisis: twenty-four hours after the call to a popular uprising against the regime by 11 of the nation's principal political parties, employers have asked the president of the military government to leave power. The Haitian Chamber of Commerce, composed of the nation's principal merchants and businessmen, has requested in a communique that General Avril adopt this position, considering that the blocked political situation, the dangerous social crisis, and the strangled economy have consecrated the military government's total failure.

For its part, the Haitian Manufacturers' Association, representing the industrialists of the assembly industry, has expressed its total support for the demands of all the nation's social strata which are calling for the departure of the government. [passage omitted]

Details of Proposed Alternative to Avril Outlined

FL0803220790 Port-au-Prince Radio Antilles Internationales in French 1230 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Excerpt] The 12 political parties [figure as heard] and the Unity Committee for the Respect of the Constitution have made public the single alternative proposed by the consultative assembly of 4 March. It involves the executive branch of the government and a Council of State.

The executive branch of the government is to be composed of a member of the Court of Cassation as provisional president, and ministers chosen by the president with the agreement of the Council of State.

Their attributions: to establish the political, institutional, and administrative conditions and the security necessary for the holding of unfettered, honest, democratic elections as soon as possible, to conclude the state's ordinary business without making any long-term commitments; to take whatever measures possible to immediately relieve the Haitian people's extreme poverty; and to reach an agreement with the Council of State and the Army so the transition can be effected quickly and without clashes.

Regarding the Council of State, it is to be composed of: a representative of the Episcopal Conference of Haiti; a representative of the Federation of Protestant Churches; a representative of the union sector; a representative of the peasant sector; a representative of the private sector; a representative of the educational sector; a representative of the socio-professional sector; a representative of the press; a representative of the human rights sector; a representative of the Army; and a representative of the bar.

This 11-man Council will appoint one representative for each geographical department to join it, except for the Department of the West, which is already well represented among the 11 sectors on the Council.

The following is the criteria for choosing members: members must not belong to any political party or other kind of political organization; must be Haitian citizens; must be at least 35 years old; and must be highly credible.

Regarding the attributions of these Council members, the essential role of the Council of State is to assist the executive, whose principal task is to expedite ordinary matters and to ensure that unfettered, democratic elections are held as quickly as possible.

Consequently, the Council of State gives its opinion on following activities of the executive: formation of the cabinet; promulgation of any and all decrees or law decrees; signing of any and all treaties or agreements concerning emergency and short-term projects which do not commit the nation's future; the general course of the nation on the political, economic, and social levels.

Should there be serious disagreement with the executive, after having exhausting all means of conciliation, the Council of State will inform the Haitian people through the press of the nature of the dispute, and may exercise its right to veto. A two-thirds majority of the members of the Council is required for a no-confidence vote against the executive.

Under no circumstances may a member of the Council hold more than one remunerated position, except in connection with teaching; nor can a Council member be a candidate to any elected office in the coming elections.

The members of the Council of State have a right to compensation which will be set bearing in mind the country's extreme poverty.

The members of the Council of State will be sworn in before the Court of Cassation and will assume their duties immediately.

The executive can, under no circumstances, dissolve the Council of State.

A no-confidence vote by a two-thirds majority of the Council of State against one of its members is cause for

the removal of this member, in which case his replacement will be appointed by the institution or sector that appointed him.

The mandate of the provisional government ends upon the installation of the constitutionally elected president.

This is the concrete proposal made by 11 political parties: National Committee of the Congress of Democratic Movements, Mobilization for National Development, National Patriotic Movement of 28 November, Movement for the Organization of the Country, Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti, Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti, Haitian Christian Democratic Party, National Democratic Progressive Party of Haiti, Social Christian People's Party of Haiti, Unified Party of Haitian Communists, and Union of Haitian Constitutionalists, and also the Committee for the Respect of the Constitution.

We must also say that these 12 [figure as heard] political parties and the Committee for the Respect of the Constitution sent [the government] a letter. This letter could not be delivered in a normal manner. Thus, the group decided to make public the letter's contents. [passage omitted]

El Salvador

Legislative Assembly Extends State of Siege

PA0903031990 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0109 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] San Salvador, 8 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—For the third time, El Salvador's Legislative Assembly has extended the state of siege imposed by the government on 12 November, one day after the guerrillas launched their most important military offensive of the past decade.

The legislative branch agreed to extend certain constitutional guarantees regarding free organization and public demonstrations by mass organizations from 12 March to 10 April. [sentence as received]

The decision to extend the state of siege was made after a lengthy and heated debate between the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), which is the main opposition political force, and the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance (Arena).

According to a document read by an Arena spokesman to a plenary session of the assembly, the state of siege throughout the country has been extended because "the extremist FMLN (Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front) forces are still active."

PDC parliamentarian representative Aristides Alvarenga said that the state of siege is an "antidemocratic" measure whose sole objective is to prevent mass demonstrations against the new economic measures.

Alvarenga specifically referred to a recent 30-percent increase in fuel prices that has triggered significant increases in basic staple prices.

'Death Squads' Issue Statement; Arena Comments

PA0903005390 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] Here is an excerpt of what an official report by the government and the Nationalist Republican Alliance, Arena, describes as a completely reckless publication and without any credibility.

The communique is by the so-called death squads, and an excerpt of it released a few hours ago through various local and foreign media reads as follows:

To the news media, political parties, the Catholic Church, unions, workers, peasant organizations, and diplomatic missions: The undersigned, supreme commanders of the death squads who met on 13 February somewhere in San Salvador in an extraordinary assembly and who represent all our chapters and cadres scattered in the country's 14 departments, strongly and manfully declare: [sentence unfinished as heard]

The document, with paragraphs highlighted by the authors, states that the officers and enlisted men involved in the Jesuits' murders must be released before Holy Week, or else they will physically eliminate all civilian and religious personnel, inside and outside the government, who have anything to do with this case.

The communique notes: Never before in the history of El Salvador has any officer been tried, and as we have learned, no soldier has been, and must not be, subject to any law of the Republic. It adds: Keep in mind, lest we begin to carry out reprisals, that throughout our history we have always gone unpunished, a privilege that we are not ready to lose.

A statement by the government and Arena, which are mentioned in the communique, totally rejected the document that, we repeat, was distributed in San Salvador a few hours ago. In a warning to the news media, the authors say that the media are obligated to make this communique known, or else their installations and staff will suffer the consequences of their disobedience. The authors of the communique also refer to a newspaper that they regard as their official mouthpiece, and they warn that, for the good and security of the country and the fatherland, this newspaper must be clearer in identifying people and figures who have already been judged and condemned in order to capture and destroy them.

Meanwhile, terming the communique as reckless and the entire situation as despicable, the government and Arena reject any ties to any death squads.

The communique by the self-styled death squads is signed by Aquiles Baires [leader of the Secret Anticommunist Army], the Maximiliano Hernandez Martinez Squad [Escuadron Maximilianio Hernandez Martinez], the Alliance of Anticommunist Action [Alianza de Accion Anticomunista], and the Committee for the Salvation of the Fatherland [Comite Pro Salvacion de la Patria].

We believe the authors' intentions in sending this communique to the news media are serious; however, at the same time, based on the disclaimers by the government and Arena, we are broadcasting this communique because we think it may constitute part of the actions and political views of people who oppose the regime, and as such, lacks credibility.

The death squads conclude their communique by stating that they note with increasing disappointment the crisis that is fatally and gradually enveloping the Salvadoran Army, Arena, and the Salvadoran Government.

Cristiani Statement Says Guerrillas 'Inflexible'

PA0903052390 Paris AFP in Spanish 0135 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] San Salvador, 8 Mar (AFP)—President Alfredo Cristiani has accused the guerrillas of maintaining "inflexible stands" regarding resuming the dialogue that will allow ending the 10-year-old armed conflict.

In an official statement today, President Cristiani said that "the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front

(FMLN) does not want to listen to the cries of the people who are rejecting violence."

For Cristiani, the FMLN "is the only party responsible for the terrorist actions, as it maintains inflexible stands" about the peace process.

The rebels, who rose up in arms 10 years ago, recently said that as long as there is no true attempt to bring about a democratization, its armed struggle "continues being as legitimate as it was 10 years ago."

Following the November 1989 offensive, the Cristiani government and the FMLN asked UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to intercede and seek an agreement that will bring about the peace talks.

Heeding this request, Perez de Cuellar appointed diplomat Alvaro De Soto as his personal representative. As of last December, De Soto has been meeting with both parties, the church, and Salvadoran political sectors.

The Cristiani statement terms as "false" the charges raised by the FMLN to the effect that the government is responsible for hindering the resumption of the peace efforts.

"President Cristiani has reiterated to Mr. De Soto a true willingness to seek the solution to the armed conflict through a serious dialogue and not a tactical, much less a propagandistic, dialogue," the document points out.

The Salvadoran government thanked De Soto's "interest and hard work" in complying with the UN secretary general's commitment to seeking peace in the country.

'Heavy Fighting' Reported in San Salvador

PA0903042790 Paris AFP in Spanish 0408 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] San Salvador, 8 Mar (AFP)—Heavy fighting broke out in the northern part of San Salvador tonight at about 2115 (0315 GMT), and as of now it is still going on.

San Salvador is being shaken by strong detonations of heavy weapons and intense rifle and machine-gun fire, while helicopters are flying over the area where the fighting is taking place.

The fighting seems to be centered in the surrounding neighborhoods of Ayutuxtepeque, Colonia Escandia, San Ramon, and Cuscatancingo, where the rebels reportedly blew up several electricity poles with dynamite, causing power outages in various sectors of the capital city.

A military source said that troops from the 1st Infantry Brigade have been dispatched to the areas where the clashes are taking place.

Situation 'Completely Normal'

PA0903055890 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 0359 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] Good evening, listeners. To bring calm to all San Salvador residents, and also to people living in the interior of the country, we inform you that a few minutes ago, experts of the Electric Light Company of El Salvador, CAES, confirmed that despite a few attacks on some electric towers, energy service is completely normal throughout San Salvador. The CAES experts added that there was a short power outage in large parts of San Salvador, but that the situation is back to normal now. The experts said that they also detected some damage to the energy system.

As you may have heard on this radio station earlier, harassment operations were carried out in several parts of San Salvador at approximately 2115 tonight.

Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] leftist guerrillas attacked military positions in San Ramon, Ayutuxtepeque, Mejicanos, and Cuscatancingo tonight. It was said that a number of FMLN members conducted lightning attacks on those military positions and then withdrew from the area immediately.

It was reported that the attack in San Ramon lasted approximately 15 minutes, after which the Army took control of that entire area. Reports state that after the attack in Ayutuxtepeque the guerrillas moved toward El Carmen Hill and counterinsurgency battalion members were pursuing the rebel columns there. It was also reported that the rebels attacked military positions in Cuscatancingo and on El Fito Street, Mejicanos Jurisdiction.

A few minutes ago it was reported that the shooting ended in Ayutuxtepeque and in the other parts of northern San Salvador, and that an Air Force helicopter is overflying the area to counteract the rebels' movement.

It was also confirmed that energy has been restored in some parts of San Salvador, but not in Cuscatancingo and Ciudad Delgado, where the guerrillas blew up several electric towers.

The Armed Forces Press Committee [Coprefa] has only stated that no casualties are reported as a result of these harassment operations, especially in the area of Ayutuxtepeque. Coprefa indicated that 1st Infantry Brigade members have already taken strategic positions throughout northern San Salvador and that these men are supported by Salvadoran Air Force helicopters, which are lighting the area with spotlights and flares.

According to the official report, the situation at this time is completely normal in northern San Salvador, despite the panic that spread at approximately 2115 when heavy shooting, machine-gun fire, and the detonation of powerful bombs were heard.

Neither Coprefa nor the specific military positions that were attacked have reported casualties so far. It was said that tomorrow morning Coprefa will issue an overall report on the results of these clashes. Salvadoran Red Cross sources said tonight that they do not know of any civilian casualties resulting from these armed incidents.

This has been a report on the attacks carried out in northern San Salvador tonight. We invite you to join us tomorrow for a report on the development of events.

* Ruben Zamora on Dialogue, Military Reform

90EM0105A Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 13, 14 Feb 90

[Article by Guadalupe Irizar]

[13 Feb pp 1, 29]

[Text] The November military offensive of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) shook up all structures and today, "after all our efforts to digest it, we can say that we are living through one of those privileged periods of a readjustment of all of El Salvador's forces," Salvadoran leader Ruben Zamora told LA JORNADA.

Interviewed in this capital on his way home from Washington, where he met with a Congressional subcommittee, the general secretary of the Social Christian People's Movement (MPSC) said that in terms of El Salvador's future, what happens in the coming months will be decisive. Zamora said it will be necessary to determine the potential viability of serious negotiations providing a political solution to the conflict in El Salvador. All sectors, including the Government of the United States, now apparently agree that there can be no military resolution for the situation. "We have perhaps reached the point where we are closer than ever before to the end of a 10-year-long war."

Nevertheless, he said, the picture is not very well defined. There are negotiating proposals from the United Nations, but the government and Salvadoran Army themselves do not seem to agree on what role that government may play.

In summarizing the situation in El Salvador just 3 months after the rebel offensive, Zamora said there are perceivable signs of change resulting from it at home and abroad.

On the international level, he said the United States seems to be convinced of a need for a change in policy, "and the Administration has decided to back negotiations." President George Bush marks a move to a "more pragmatic," less ideologized policy according to which Central America is one of a number of conflicts in the world that must be solved. Nor can one rule out the fact that if everything else fails, e.g. Panama, there is a latent threat of invasion that would have to be accomplished very quickly. However, Zamora said, this does not seem to be the trend. The mood in Nicaragua appears to be one of seeing how Congress and the opposition will shape up.

Concerning U.S. support for the Army, Zamora says it is beginning to be based on conditions, and proposals are indeed divided, but the general feeling is that there can be no military victory. Some propose more conditions for aid, while some would withhold 50 percent of such aid until the situation is clarified. The committee of 16 American congressmen scheduled to arrive in the country this week to observe the Jesuit murder trial is the largest sent to date.

In addition, the Salvadoran leader said, the murder of the Jesuits has greatly damaged the Armed Forces' image, inasmuch as the role of the military has been publicly admitted and there is more and more information (published in the United States) concerning the involvement of the Army staff in such a plan. It is a fact that it was a "much more ambitious" strategy for the purpose of decapitating broad sectors of the opposition, but it "eventually failed because that night we were all hidden somewhere other than our usual residence."

The killing of the Jesuits was undoubtedly "a strategic error" that split government officials and the Army. Within the same party in the Arena (National Republican Alliance) government, fissures have deepened between those who continue to maintain the need for "total war" and those convinced that there can be no such thing. In addition, pressure from the *pulpos*, businessmen who need an end to the war in order to get the economy and business back on their feet, is steadily growing, and that pressure includes the interests of Alfredo Cristiani himself.

Zamora, who during the Army's counteroffensive in November had to be "submerged" in the country along with all the other social, trade union, and people's leaders and whose unexpected appearance at the burial of the Jesuit priests under conditions of general persecution surprised everyone, noted that the events of November undoubtedly roused all the people's movements. While there was no "beheading" and the movement did not disappear as it did in 1981, one can say that it was one of the sectors most affected, with the destruction of headquarters and attacks on leaders who even now, after 3 months, "cannot emerge from the mere survival phase." We shall have to analyze once again what role we can play in the future. This has also meant an internal cost for the offensive.

Regarding the FMLN, Zamora said there can be no doubt the organization is also going through a phase of readjustment as a result of the offensive because, while it was a success militarily, "even greater than hoped," there was no general uprising and the immediate political effect was not as great as anticipated. However, one must admit the offensive marked a change in the country's political picture.

[14 Feb pp 30, 44]

[Text] As I see it, the central negotiating points in El Salvador are the reform of the Armed Forces and the conversion of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) into a political party. "If these two things do not occur, there can be no peace, like it or not and no matter what the military says. If this does not happen, there can be no solution," Ruben Zamora, leader of the Social Christian People's Movement (MPSC) maintained

These two points are contained in the initial FMLN proposal presented since September, he said. "The FMLN cannot stop fighting with the military as it is and the Armed Forces cannot be reformed in the midst of a war in which they are shooting it out with the Front." That is why "there is no other alternative than a program that settles both issues."

Interviewed at a restaurant in this city while on his way back to his country, Zamora outlined the four points that he and his organization see as essential to reform of the Army: 1) the creation and development of civil institutions to counterbalance the impunity of the Army, implying a new judicial system reformed from top to bottom in order to make it strong, and the creation of institutions such as the Office of Special Prosecutor for Human Rights; 2) a numerical reduction in the Army, which is very large and costly for the country. Direct costs absorb nearly a fourth of the defense budget and direct and indirect costs combined take up something over half the budget, in addition to aid from the United States, and the country can neither bear nor sustain this; 3) separation of the Police from the Army and reorganization of the Police, turning the force into a civilian, demilitarized corps under civilian command (up to now the Army and Police have been one and the same thing under the same chief); and 4) a purge of officials and officers "because there are people involved in the violation of human rights."

The Salvadoran leader added: "If the Armed Forces do not negotiate their reform, they will disappear as Armed Forces and this is perhaps the only incentive that may lead the Army to the bargaining table. If they refuse to negotiate, they will disappear."

Zamora said the Armed Forces know they will lose in negotiations because if there is peace in El Salvador, the Army will be smaller. If there is a peaceful, democratic solution, civilian power will prevail over military might, and if there is a peaceful solution, it will mean the Americans "are no longer going to be spending the millions of dollars they do now or sending the same column of advisers...."

That is why, he emphasized, "it is very important to have a partial or total cut in military aid from the United States because this will send a direct message to the Armed Forces."

"And what about the FMLN?"

"It must also negotiate its incorporation into the country's political life," Zamora maintained, adding: "They have not always been merely a military force; they have always been a political-military force. Their main leaders were once politicians and later military men. The problem is designing a program of gradual transformation in order to tie it to the program to reform the Army. Let's say there has to come a time when they surrender their arms, just as the reduction in the Army presumes the surrender of weapons. It must be simultaneous. What is important is the political will to do so. The FMLN has already made such an offer, but the problem is that the Army said no such thing, for there is apparently no political will to do so."

For the MPSC leader, the FMLN proposal contains many "positive" points such as those previously outlined and others that must be analyzed with greater realism, for example, "moving the legislative elections forward. This cannot be done without violating the constitution." It is different from the proposal to postpone the presidential elections, he said, "which we supported because it could be done constitutionally."

Zamora maintains that UN participation is essential to what is being defined for El Salvador's future. "I think the fact that the United Nations is beginning to participate in this, even though it is not yet very clear what its role will be, is one more sign that we are drawing closer to, or at least have increased the possibilities of, negotiation. When a conflict is taken up by the United Nations, it has already moved up to a more strategic level."

UN participation is necessary, among other reasons, "in order for dialogue to turn into negotiation and to facilitate the broad mobilization of support for a political solution." The fact that the United Nations wants this helps the consensus and also puts pressure on both sides to take proposals seriously. Consequently, Zamora says, the Armed Forces do not want it to be any more than a "witness," not a mediator. The military has realized that UN intervention in a way means "internationalizing" the Salvadoran conflict, which they refuse to accept. Consequently, when Alfredo Cristiani publicly asked for UN mediation on 3 January, the military immediately jumped on him and he was forced to back down. He now talks about its "good offices" as a "facilitator," even though he knows the role of this forum must be more relevant. For the time being, this is the main obstacle to negotiations.

Within this whole process, Zamora emphasizes the participation of countries such as Spain, France, Venezuela, and Mexico. He said Mexico must face up to the United States, facilitate contacts and talks, and support humanitarian endeavors. Some want to see a "more militant" role for that country and even mention withdrawal of the embassy, but for us it would be a mistake, inasmuch as thinking about withdrawal of the diplomatic representation "could mean the end of any role," and it therefore serves the Salvadoran people.

Finally, regarding the immediate future and the situation in which the country finds itself, Zamora said: "I do not see the danger of general repression at the present time. For me, the greatest danger in this period is sporadic coups because it is a time of a rearrangement of forces, which makes one a target, not just because we are leftists, but also because of problems and contradictions within the right itself. I think that if negotiating begins in earnest, it will be even more dangerous because the far right may do crazy things, try to stop it however it can....What would happen to our guarantees then? The first guarantee is internal. Everything must be transformed into concrete facts because, in war, there are no guarantees."

Military Command Meets Honduran Army Delegation

PA0903032190 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1914 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] San Salvador, 6 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—A Salvadoran Defense Ministry spokesman announced today that a Honduran Army delegation has met with the Salvadoran military command to analyze the "activities" of the rebel groups that operate in the region, particularly that of the Salvadoran guerrillas.

The military source said that at the meeting the officers also discussed the efforts that the two armies can make to neutralize the activities of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) which operates in that zone.

On several occasions the FMLN has denounced incursions by Honduran soldiers into Salvadoran territory and the harassment of peasants in the border region which is disputed by the two countries.

El Salvador and Honduras have border disputes all along their frontiers regarding territories that have not been awarded to either nation by the International Court of Justice Court at The Hague. According to the Salvadoran Army, these areas serve as a sanctuary for the guerrillas.

The military spokesman said that Salvadoran Defense Minister General Rafael Humberto Larios, Honduran Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Arnulfo Cantarero, and Honduran Chief of Staff Colonel Guillermo Paredes, among others, participated in the meeting, which was held yesterday.

Nicaragua

Ortega Addresses Women on Women's Day

PA0903044890 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0056 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega to Nicaraguan women to commemorate International Women's Day at the Nonaligned Square in Managua—live]

[Text] Today [crowd cheers], today, the women of Nicaragua, the men, the youth, and the children celebrate this day with enthusiasm, with joy, with firmness, with dignity, and with the fighting spirit that the women have maintained throughout our history to defend the fatherland, to defend our national interests, and to defend the revolution.

Where are the women? Where are the women full of love, full of determination, full of energy, full of love for the fatherland, full of love for Nicaragua? These are the women of Nicaragua. These are our women. [applause; crowd chants: "Daniel, Daniel!"]

Where are the women? [Crowd answers: "Here!"] A multitude of women who overflowed in Nonaligned Square are here with us. [indistinct slogans] Are the women demoralized? [Crowd answers: "No!"] Are they afraid? [Crowd answers: "No!"] Are they retreating? [Crowd answers: "No!"] Are they at the front with the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front]? [Crowd answers: "Yes!"]

On 25 February of this historic 1990, the FSLN was defeated, but the revolution achieved a huge victory, and the FSLN is the revolution. [applause] On 25 February 1990 we participated in the elections under disadvantageous conditions for the FSLN, in unfair conditions for all the Nicaraguan people, because the people did not have the right to elect freely. Nevertheless, even amid such conditions—being aware that the United States, that U.S. imperialism was pointing a gun at the head of the Nicaraguan people—we decided to participate in the elections to demonstrate that in Nicaragua we want peace, democracy, justice, and liberty. [applause, indistinct slogans]

We must bear the following in mind: It is true. It is true [repeats himself] they were out buying votes. It is true. However, we must also bear in mind that the Nicaraguan people have been subjected to the aggression of the imperialist policy for more than 10 years.

We had to endure cowardly ambushes, the destruction of cooperatives, the murder of children, and the destruction of schools all these years. We have been the people or nation that in Latin America and the Caribbean, in this modern age, had to endure the most prolonged aggression from Yankee imperialism. We have also been the people who stood firm and did not yield before the aggressors. [crowd shouts indistinct slogans] The Yankees mined our ports, ordered an embargo on Nicaragua's economy, and brought hunger and destruction to the people of Nicaragua. The Yankees wanted to destroy the revolution by means of the contras. They wanted to tear down the revolution. They wanted to uproot the revolution.

You have to remember, you must remember well, that these are not the first elections in Nicaragua, nor will they be the last elections in Nicaragua, because Nicaragua has been democratic and free since 19 July 1979. [crowd shouts] You must recall, all of us must recall, that in 1984 we had elections. The Yankees did not want to

participate in the elections. They did not want to participate in the elections because at that time they wanted-...[changes thought] they thought they could destroy the revolution with the force of Somozist mercenaries, or Somozist Guardsmen, or the counterrevolution. They thought they could demoralize the people with a protracted war of attrition, killing Nicaraguans and destroying their economy.

If we compare Nicaragua's population with the U.S. population, here in Nicaragua the U.S. policy subjected us to a true genocide. If the United States had been subjected to a war similar to this one... [changes thought] Let us imagine that a world power decides to bankroll groups of U.S. citizens who want to fight against the U.S. Government, let us imagine that Mexican and Canadian territories are occupied to allow the settlement camps of those forces, and let us also imagine that war begins and lasts 10 years, as this war imposed by the United States against Nicaragua has, and that since in Nicaragua we had more than 60,000 victims, in that same period of time the United States would have had over 2 million victims. In that period of time, 30,000 Nicaraguans have been killed, and so over 1 million U.S. citizens would have been killed; that is, a larger number of victims and people killed than the United States sustained in all the wars of the modern era, including World War II, the Vietnam War, and the Korean War.

This gives us an idea of the sacrifice the Nicaraguan people have had to endure. This also gives us an idea of the heroism, fighting spirit, greatness, and firmness of the Nicaraguan people. [crowd shouts] Women have been there in the trenches of liberty, in the trenches of independence, and in the trenches of the people, defending the revolution. Peasant women have been at the frontlines of combat in the mountains and in cooperatives, defending the revolution and carrying a weapon in her hand while holding her child to her bosom. A woman carrying a rifle, that is the example of the Nicaraguan people. [applause] She defends the right of all Nicaraguans so we can hold elections like the ones we held on 25 February. The elections were monitored as no other elections have been monitored in any independent country.

Nicaraguans feel proud of having fighting and heroic women who have defended the fatherland all these years. We have had to endure economic, military, and social attrition through the U.S. aggression. They wanted to destroy the revolution. They did not succeed. We must understand once and for all, Nicaraguan brothers and Nicaraguan women, that on 25 February after the elections, which admittedly were a setback for the FSLN, the people of Nicaragua achieved a victory, and therefore so did the FSLN, because the FSLN [applause] defended with its militants, and has defended with its militants... [changes thought] Sandinist youths and Nicaraguan women have defended with their lives, and women like Brenda Rocha [militia girl who lost an arm while fighting the contras] have placed their arms at the service of the fatherland to defend the right to hold elections on 25 February 1990! [applause]

Although it is true that 55 percent of the voters voted for the other option, those people did not vote for the counterrevolution; they did not vote for Somozism, but voted out of the desperation created by Yankee aggression and threats that if they voted for the FSLN, the war and the embargo would continue; they voted for the other option out of desperation to bring about peace and stability. Those Nicaraguan brothers, however, are not traitors. They did not vote for the contra movement. They did not vote for Somozism and we will soon have them on our side because they will realize, they will realize that they were offered lies and not the truth.

As for these elections, after having been weakened socially, politically, and economically, the FSLN decided to participate in the election process, although we knew we would be fighting in disadvantageous conditions. We did not, however, avoid the struggle, although we knew that the conditions were disadvantageous to us. David defeated Goliath again, because the FSLN came out of these elections as the party of the best and of the majority. [applause]

With 41 percent of the votes, the people firmly, unyieldingly, and conscientiously said: We are up front... [Crowd shouts: "With the FSLN!"] We are up front... [Crowd shouts: "With the FSLN!"]. We are up front... [Crowd shouts: "With the FSLN!"].

Thus, we must not forget that it is now our duty to work so all those Nicaraguan brothers who voted out of desperation can rectify the situation. They will have the great opportunity to do so because the new government has a program.... [changes thought] because we will have a new government in Nicaragua as of 25 April, [Crowd shouts: "No!"] as of 25 April.

The new government promised the people that it would end the war. The contras are saying that they will not end the war. Therefore, what option is left? All of us must unite to eliminate the contras. [applause] [crowd shouts indistinct slogans] I am just as convinced that just as the contras are swearing that they will not disarm and demobilize, the people are willing to take up arms en masse to eliminate them once and for all. [crowd shouts indistinct slogans] For over 10 years the contras have not passed, nd we will not let them pass now! [crowd shouts indistinct slogans]

I already said and clearly stated that on 25 April I will hand over the keys of the presidency to the new government. [crowd shouts] I will govern from below with you. [crowd shouts] We will govern from below to defend the achievements of the revolution. [crowd shouts] This way, the new government will also have to keep its commitments. [crowd shouts] It has pledged peace, and we will demand peace from them. [crowd shouts] It has

pledged economic and social improvement, and we will demand economic and social improvement. [crowd shouts]

They said they will respect the rights attained by people who own houses and lots, and we will demand that they keep their commitment. [crowd shouts] They said they will not take the land away from peasants. [crowd shouts indistinct slogan] They said they will not take the land away from peasants, and I am sure peasants will be the first ones to defend their lands. [applause] With the revolution, we won a democracy that entitles all of us to talk, and just as they have said all they wanted all these years, after 25 April we will defend the people's right to speak, express themselves, and move freely. [crowd shouts indistinct slogans]

We released Somozist guardsmen and contras, and it is time that the kidnapped persons are released. [crowd shouts] We must consider, Nicaraguan brothers, that the struggle we have been waging has been against the imperialist policy, and we cannot lower our guard. We cannot be careless. We have a few days to go before 25 April.

The country's situation is very tense and very complex. There are extremist groups that are threatening the country's stability, beginning with the contras, who say they will not lay down their weapons, [crowd shouts indistinct slogans] and beginning with the U.S. Government that does not keep its word, as it pledged to demobilize the contras when there were elections in Nicaragua and has not yet done so. They have not even taken steps to transfer the funds approved by the U.S. Congress as humanitarian aid to the contras. They have not even transferred those funds to the United Nations and the OAS so they can proceed to demobilize the contras. Why? Because we know [crowd shouts indistinct slogan], we know, we know that out in the open the Yankees say that the contras should demobilize, but on the side, they tell the contras: Stay there.

That is not a correct attitude. They are not going to fool us, and we are going to demand total contra demobilization and disarmament before 25 April. [crowd cheers, chants] That is what is going to give all Nicaraguans security. What gives all Nicaraguans security? The existence of a professional, patriotic, and clean army such as the Sandinist People's Army [EPS], [crowd cheers, chants] the existence of the Interior Ministry [Minint], and the existence of the Sandinist police that contributed so much for these elections to have taken place within the framework of normalcy. This was recognized by international observers who described the role of the Sandinist police as exceptional, as ensuring demonstrations were not violent... [15-second break in reception] ...a Nicaragua with a minimum of stability, with a minimum of confidence. If we want a Nicaragua where all Nicaraguans feel safe, we must stop the contras, we must demobilize the contras, and we must respect the EPS and the Minint in their own right and because of the Constitution. [cheers]

I have been explaining to international journalists, and I have been talking to Humberto, who heads the commission that is dealing with transition matters. I have spoken a lot on how tense the situation all over Nicaragua is right now. This is like the calm before a storm. We are obliged to avoid being swept away by a storm of civil war, people's rebellion, and violence. All Nicaraguans are obliged to work with a practical, realistic, and constructive attitude so we arrive at 25 April in normalcy.

What is happening now? The contras continue to attack and introduce people into Nicaraguan territory with the complicity of the Honduran Army and the U.S. Government. What is happening is that since 25 February 1990, Nicaraguans, all Nicaraguans, have become very worried over the savings they have in cordobas and dollars in the bank. The revolution had managed to generate trust for saving by applying a firm but flexible economic plan, and it had managed to have billions in cordobas and about $100,000 in saving accounts. In other words, up to February of this year there were millions in these accounts, but since the situation became tense, the people have begun withdrawing money from the banks.

People are withdrawing money from banks; they are withdrawing cordobas and dollars from banks and that is not good for the country's economy, whoever rules. That is why it is urgent that the problems that worry Nicaraguans the most should be resolved and discussed within the framework of stability for all Nicaraguans. That is why it is especially urgent that the contras be demobilized and disarmed; otherwise, I cannot guarantee tranquility for the Nicaraguan people on 25 April. [crowd cheers]

I believe Nicaraguan brothers that we must accept, we must accept, accept with firmness, we must accept with firmess that we will have a new government on 25 April. We must accept that with firmness. [Crowd shouts: "No!"] That, however, does not mean, does not mean that we will let the new government do whatever it wants. [Crowd shouts: "No!"] We will give the new government the opportunity to do away with the contra movement. Are all of us here willing to eliminate the contra movement? [Crowd shouts: "Yes!"]

But, but, but if we reach 25 April, if we reach 25 April with a nondemobilized and nondisarmed contra movement, I will turn over the keys of the government palace, but I will do so, I will do so in the middle of a very complicated situation, because all of the Nicaraguan people will be up in arms trying to defend themselves and doing away with the counterrevolution. [applause]

Who can guarantee the life and safety of Nicaraguans? Nicaraguans themselves, of course. Can the Somozist Guard guarantee Nicaraguans' life? [Crowd answers: "No!"] Can the contra movement do so? [Crowd answers: "No!"] Who guarantees the life of the Nicaraguan people then? [Crowd answers: "We do!"] Nicaraguans, the Nicaraguan people, the Nicaraguan people do.

For that reason, our reaching 25 April amid more or less normal circumstances will depend very much on the demobilization and disarmament of the contra movement before 25 April. Otherwise, we will turn over the government to the new government, to the new government amid abnormal circumstances. And under those circumstances, Nicaraguans will have the obligation to defend the Nicaraguan people's right to life. [applause]

They will govern Nicaragua as of 25 April. They will face great challenges. The new government will have to face the challenge of educating 1 million Nicaraguans, which is what the revolution has been able to do. [applause] The new government will face the challenge of keeping 30,000 teachers in their posts, which are the jobs that the revolution has defended. [applause] [crowd shouts indistinct slogans]

They have asserted that the country's economic and social situation will improve. They have asserted that we will have peace. They will face a great trial. And the people will be the great witnesses of that trial. The great witness of that trial will be: [Crowd shouts: "The people!"] The people! And the judge of that great trial will be: [Crowd shouts: "The people!"]. [Crowd shouts: "A united people will never be defeated!"]

Comrades that I meet in the streets, comrades that I meet while waiting at traffic lights, and female comrades who I meet in the streets and who stop to greet me have told me: Do not turn over the weapons. And I say to them: I cannot turn over the weapons because they belong to the people. I cannot turn them over. [applause]

And I understand exactly what they mean. They are telling me that they want security for all. They want security for all Nicaraguans, including all of the country's political parties. And security is granted by our Army and our Interior Ministry. That is the truth. The contra movement, the contra movement would destroy everybody. That is the truth. The contras would destroy everything. That is the truth. Thus, the organizations that can grant security to all Nicaraguan political forces, to the Sandinists, and their opponents are the Sandinist People's Army and the Interior Ministry! [applause] [Crowd shouts: "One single Army!"]

I have also said—look, this is nothing new—I have often said that there are thousands of rifles in the hands of the people here, thousands of rifles in the hands of the people. Why? Because the peasants who are in war zone cooperatives; the peasants who are in the national war production enterprises; the transporters who move about the war zones; and the people in construction who move about war zones; all of these people, when I visit war zones, the first thing that they say to me is: We need weapons to defend ourselves; otherwise, the contras will ambush us without a second thought.

This is why there are thousands of weapons distributed throughout our territory, and those weapons are not turned against the revolution and the government, but are ready to defend the fatherland and the security of Nicaraguans. [applause, indistinct slogans]

On the streets, comrades have said: Beware of leaving. [crowd jeers] Yes, they said beware of leaving, but they mean that I should not leave Nicaragua. [jeers] I say to them: No, I will stay here with you. [cheers, slogans] I was not born on top, I was born on the bottom [cheers] and I swear that I feel better remaining at the botton to ensure that the people's interests are defended. [indistinct slogans]

We did not fight to gain positions; we never did that. We fought for a position beside the people, and are honored to hold that position, of not losing that position. [indistinct slogans] And today I want to ask you for permission to leave on 10 March for Chile to attend the inauguration of President Aylwin in Chile. [Crowd answers: "Yes!"]

I will convey to him the solidarity of the Nicaraguan people. [indistinct slogans] I was invited to visit Chile and Brazil. Afterward, I will return to Nicaragua.

Brothers, do I have your permission? [Crowd answers: "Yes!"] I will feel very honored to represent the heroic people of Nicaragua before the Chilean and Brazilian peoples. [applause, indistinct slogans] In the meantime, in all of the days before 25 April, we must remain attentive, always working, and remaining organized to make the decisions that we must make to guarantee the security and life of all Nicaraguans and a peaceful transition on 25 April 1990. [applause]

On this Women's Day I want to pay homage to Nicaragua's heroic women who have given their lives in the struggle against the Somozist dictatorship and in defending the revolution during all these years. [applause, chants] We swear we will defend victory in the name of those dead, our dead; to those women, our women. I also want to pay homage to heroic women who have stood out in the FSLN during this struggle, women like Doris Tijerino, [applause, chants] who together with dozens of Sandinist women, when we were only a few dozen Sandinists, was captured and tortured by Somozist henchmen whom we have freed in an act of revolutionary generosity. This shows the moral strength of the Sandinist people's revolution, which is greater than the hatred, the feeling of vengeance that Somozist guards, contras, and all others who think like them have within. [applause, slogans]

As I have said, this is the greatest test that we, the Nicaraguan revolutionaries, the Sandinist revolutionaries will undergo. If on 25 February 1990 the FSLN had won more votes, then the Yankees and those who think like them or are pressured by them, would have said there was fraud and that this is how the Sandinists won. The best proof that we Sandinists are honest, strong, and trust the people is that we admitted this defeat. [applause] We Sandinists are convinced that this defeat will turn into a strategic victory for the revolution, for the Nicaraguan people, for Nicaragua's peace and democracy. [slogans]

We will be living an enormous test. What test could be greater than what Sandino underwent when he was betrayed by Somoza and killed by the Yankees? Sandino had struggled against the invasion, against the people betrayed by Somoza, [as heard] and was killed by the Yankees. But Sandino did not die. He was resurrected with the FSLN and entered Managua victoriously on 19 July 1979! [cheers] Today, despite the defeat in the elections, the revolution has emerged as a winner, and Sandino, a general of free men, is here with us celebrating Women's Day! [applause, slogans]

The FSLN, the Nicaraguan women, the heroic women of Nicaragua, the mothers of the kidnapped, and the mothers of martyrs and heroes are an example of courage, patriotism, and dignity.

With these women and with this humble and hard-working people, we will continue to defend the revolution that has cost us blood, that has cost us the lives of our people, that has cost us much sacrifice, and that the Nicaraguan people will never again betray. [crowd shouts indistinct slogans]

On the early morning of 26 February, when I spoke at the convention center before the media, I was remembering a conversation I had held with my mother a few days before. We were getting ready to commemorate the 12th anniversary of the death of Camilo [Ortega's brother]. We were planning to go to the cemetery and then attend a mass in Abogales, Masaya Department.

On 26 February in the morning, as I was giving advice to the people and as I was accepting reality with the honesty and determination which has characterized the Sandinists, [applause] I remembered Camilo and I thought: It may seem ironic that on the 12th anniversary of Camilo's death I had to announce to the people that the FSLN had suffered a setback. However, I told myself: There is a clear message here. Camilo died just as Sandino did. They both died before the triumph of the revolution. However, we have suffered a setback after the revolution had already triumphed.

Sandino and Camilo are saying: We won and onward! We won! [Crowd shouts: "And onward!"]

Everything will be better! [crowd chants indistinct slogans] Everything will be better with a worthy fatherland, with a heroic people, with a people with a fighting spirit, with a democratic Nicaragua, with a free Nicaragua, and with a Nicaragua with justice.

Everything will be better, and the people will be willing to defend the fatherland until the final consequences. Everything will be better because the Nicaraguan people have already made the decision. That is why the Nicaraguan people voted on 25 February 1990.

Long live the Nicaraguan women! [Crowd shouts: "Viva!"] Long live the women of the world! [Crowd shouts: "Viva!"] Long live Sandino! [Crowd shouts: "Viva!"] Free fatherland! [Crowd shouts: "Or death!"]

Godoy Comments on Sandinists, Transfer of Power

PA0803215390 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1849 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] Managua, 8 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—Vice President-elect Virgilio Godoy has announced that there is a "lack of consultation" between the Sandinist government and the newly elected one, as the Sandinists are making "serious decisions" that will hamper the transfer of power.

According to Godoy, in "normal" countries, the outgoing government cannot and should not make decisions that will affect the new government's administration without consulting people who will be in the new government.

The 25 February elections were won by the National Opposition Union (UNO) coalition, headed by Violeta Chamorro. UNO obtained 54.7 percent of the votes, and Daniel Ortega obtained 40.8 percent.

"As part of a plan designed to make the new government's work more difficult and to create a crisis because of the lack of supplies, Sandinists are reexporting food that had been donated to Nicaragua," Godoy reported.

He added that immediately after the Sandinist government lost the elections it cancelled a contract with Exxon to import 100,000 metric tons of petroleum.

Godoy charged that in Nicaragua, the Sandinists are taking over state resources—such as vehicles, transportation equipment, state farms, and houses—in a unprecedented manner.

The vice president-elect noted that the transfer of state resources to individual people will be subject to a "rigorous revision" in the future to determine if it was a legal action.

The Nicaraguan National Assembly began to study the package of bills that, according to the government, will "guarantee Nicaraguans' rights and ensure the revolution's institutional framework."

One of the bills refers to the "legalization of state housing by transferring the property to people living there" as a way to "protect the changes and gains of the revolution."

Another bill, sent by President Daniel Ortega to the parliament, is intended to "release all people charged with alleged crimes that had not been brought to trial."

The civil service law is to be reformed, and a new autonomy law for the university will be dictated, too.

All the bills, including the one that eliminates the media law, must be approved prior to 25 April, the day Violeta Chamorro is inagurated.

Contra Leader Says Civil War 'Imminent'

PA0803191190 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] Contra commander Israel Galeano, a.k.a. Commander Franklin, has said in Honduras that a civil war is imminent in Nicaragua. The counterrevolutionary leader's worrisome statement is one more instance in a number of developments showing that the contras are split on the issue of demobilization. A contra faction led by Galeano feels the contras must not disarm if the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] is not totally dismantled first. Another faction proposes that the contras return to their homes.

Over the last few days, the contras have begun questioning the legitimacy of Dona Violeta Chamorro's electoral victory as a way to undermine the validity of the transition negotiations. Another contra leader, Commander Ruben [Oscar Manuel Sobalvarro Garcia], has said that the people did not vote for Chamorro, pointing out that she is only a symbol of unity.

Commander Franklin was more critical. He said that Chamorro is only a good person, a good Nicaraguan. He criticized Harry Shlaudeman, the U.S. roving ambassador to Central America, who has asked the contras to demobilize. Commander Franklin has said that civil war is almost inevitable in Nicaragua.

Military Reports Contras Breaking Cease-Fire

PA0803163690 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 6 Mar 90 pp 1, 4

[Text] In open violation of the cease-fire decreed by the Nicaraguan Government and of the call by the president-elect for them to disarm themselves, counterrevolutionary groups broke the truce a few days ago and launched attacks against civilians and EPS [Sandinist People's Army] units in the north and center of Nicaragua.

An EPS bulletin issued yesterday reports the kidnapping of 10 civilians on 2 March in the area known as Cano Las Milpas, northeast of Nueva Guinea Department, while a mercenary force attacked EPS troops on 3 March in El Bosque, northeast of Quilali. One contra was killed in this action.

EPS spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Rosa Pasos has confirmed that "heavy fighting" took place in Regions V and VI. Two EPS soldiers were wounded on 3 March when a military unit was attacked by a counterrevolutionary group northeast of Pantasma, Jinotega Department. In addition, Colonel Manuel Salvatierra, chief of Military Region VI, denounced dangerous regroupings of contra forces of approximately 300 and 350 men in the areas of Wiwili and Rio Blanco, respectively.

Salvatierra reported that extraordinary measures have been taken in Wiwili to protect the town, but he did not expand on the results of the military operations that are being conducted.

The military chief estimated that there are 1,700 armed contras in Region VI, which represents a threat to the peace process that is under way in the country.

Attacks Reported

PA0903015690 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 7 Mar 90 p 4

[Report by M. M. Gonzalez]

[Text] Esteli—In open violation of the unilateral cease-fire decreed recently by President Daniel Ortega, the contras attacked Sandinist troops at Punta de Colon in La Concordia and Loma Cutacha in Jalapa this weekend.

Four EPS [Sandinist People's Army] members were wounded and one contra, Arnulfo Lopez, was killed during the fighting.

In addition, the civilians Luis Chavarria and Mercedes Sobalvarro were attacked on 4 March while visiting relatives in LLano de Colon. According to reports, Chavarria and Sobalvarro were taken to the Manolo Morales Hospital in Managua, where they are being treated.

Government Repeals Media Law 8 March

PA0803212790 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2010 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] Managua, 8 Mar (DPA)—The Nicaraguan Government today repealed the media law that has been in effect since April 1989, thus opening the legal avenue for the installation of private television channels in Nicaragua.

The repeal was decided by the parliament at the request of President Daniel Ortega. The vote count was 84 votes in favor, one against, and one abstention, following a heated debate over freedom of speech in Nicaragua.

Repealing the law was the result of the Central American agreements of "Costa del Sol," El Salvador. The law had general dispositions dealing with journalism, but was never used to close down any media.

Even though the opposition always argued on the principle that "the best media law is that which does not exist," the legislation only covered private and public admonitions and temporary suspensions of the local media.

The law also included the elimination of two decrees that prohibited the media from publising or broadcasting military or economic information.

* Election Results Updated

90EM0108B Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 2 Mar 90 pp 1, 8

[Text] It was unofficially announced in EL NUEVO DIARIO last night that in Region VII (Atlantico Norte Autonomous Region [RAAN]), a change was introduced during the final counting of the votes, with the result that the YATAMA [Indian Military Organization] won another seat in the National Assembly, leaving only Mirna Cunnhigan [as published] for the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front].

In the recounting of the votes at 80 percent of the polls, it appeared that the FSLN had two seats in RAAN, and the opposition coalition one, but when the ballot counting had been completed all over the region, Hazel Law was excluded, leaving two seats for YATAMA and one for the Sandinists as the distribution.

In Region I, where the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] may possibly make the figure official this afternoon, after the final counting by 100 percent of the Vote Receiving Councils has been completed, the ninth deputy's seat on the list for the region was won by the FSLN for Orlando Benavidez, who was number five on the FSLN electoral ballot.

It was also announced unofficially that the FSLN won another seat in Region VIII, which would make the composition of the National Assembly the following: 50 deputies for UNO [National Opposition Union], 38 for the FSLN, and two for YATAMA, to which must be added the presidential candidates Daniel Ortega for the FSLN and Moises Hassan for MUR [Revolutionary Unity Movement].

Official CSE Statement

The secretary of the Supreme Electoral Council, Dr Rosa Marina Zelaya, issued an official CSE report yesterday containing the final and official count for Region II (Leon), Region III (Managua), and Region IX (San Carlos and Rio San Juan).

The statement confirmed what we had reported about the results of the elections for members of the Legislative Assembly in Region II (eight for UNO and seven for the FSLN).

FSLN Elects Leon Mayor

The report added that of the 23 mayoral posts in Region II, the Sandinist Front won those in San Pedro del Norte, Cinco Pinos, Somotillo, Villanueva, Larreynaga, and Leon (two council members for UNO and eight for the FSLN).

The CSE confirmed the figures we published yesterday for Region III, showing that the FSLN won only two mayoral posts.

In Region IX, San Carlos and Rio San Juan, the Sandinist Front elected the mayors of San Miguelito, San Carlos, and El Castillo, while UNO elected only the mayor of Morrito.

In that same region, according to the official count, the FSLN won the only deputy's seat in the region, with 6,740 votes.

On being asked by END [EL NUEVO DIARIO] about Regions I, IV, VI, and VII, Dr Zelaya said that "the review and recounting of votes has not yet been completed, but as soon as the information from all of the Regional Electoral Councils has been received and processed, it will be officially published, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 158 and 183 of the Electoral Law.

Correction

We are correcting an unwitting error made in our 28 February issue. In the list of FSLN candidates who won deputies' seats, Commander Mauricio Valenzuela and his alternate, Dr Milu Vargas, were omitted. The fourteenth candidate elected by UNO was Juan Jose Aguerri Hurtado, and not Jaime Chamorro Cardenal. Aguerri Hurtado had withdrawn prior to the election, and it is not known if he will occupy his seat, or with which bench he will affiliate.

* Controversy Surrounds Oil Supply

* FSLN 'Supply Guaranteed'

90EM0093A Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 12 Jan 90 pp 1, 4

[Text] The Nicaraguan Institute of Energy (INE) has let it be known that the country faces difficulties in meeting its oil quota for 1990.

Although the statements which appeared in the official Sandinist daily BARRICADA today sought to suggest a certain optimism, the reality is that there is nothing certain for Nicaragua when it comes to oil after March, which is as far as the Russians have guaranteed the supply.

Ricardo Melendez, who is in charge of the oil sector at the INE, was quoted today in BARRICADA as saying that the country needs 764,000 tons of oil and oil products in 1990, "which are guaranteed where the supply for the first half of the year is concerned, that is, until 30 June 1990."

But in the 25 November issue of BARRICADA, the Soviet deputy minister of foreign economic relations was quoted in the third column on page 4 as follows: "During the session (with the Sandinist representatives), we studied the question of ensuring the supply of oil for the month of December 1989 and the first quarter of 1990. Within the next few days, a Nicaraguan delegation will travel to the USSR to sign the corresponding contracts with the Soviet foreign trade bodies."

The Soviet deputy minister, Aleksandr Kachanov, also stated in that publication that the USSR promises that the total of goods supplied to Nicaragua in 1990 will not fall below the 1989 total. In other words, he did not say there would be a reduction, but he did not promise an increase in these resources either. Melendez said today that the Nicaraguan oil invoice total in 1990 will come to $130 million, i.e., 39 percent of the foreign resources expected by Nicaragua during the year.

Melendez made a partial admission of this difficulty in foreseeing the Nicaraguan oil supply when he said that "of the 390,000 tons of oil and oil products the country will need in 1990, contracts were signed for 300,000 in the USSR, and this supply is now coming into the country. However, the other 90,000 tons will come from Cuba, during the second quarter of the year," i.e., between April and June.

This could be regarded as the first difficulty in ensuring a smooth supply of oil for Nicaragua in 1990, although Melendez says that "the deliveries for the first 6 months of the year are guaranteed."

He added that "in order to guarantee the remaining 310,000 tons, Nicaragua is now negotiating with Bulgaria, Germany (presumably the GDR), and Hungary."

As everyone is familiar with the events which have occurred in these countries, where concern about the domestic economy has increased because of the political upsets, doubt persists as to whether a supply of oil can be obtained from these countries in the same fashion as in former years.

* Assertion Challenged

90EM0093B Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 12 Jan 90 pp 1, 8

[Text] The supply of oil for the first half of the year has been guaranteed on the basis of imports of 390,000 tons of oil from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) and Cuba, Ricardo Melendez, director for hydrocarbons at Petronic [Petroleum Enterprise], stated yesterday.

The demand for oil products in 1990 will come to 700,000 tons, not including the import of 38,000 barrels of aviation gasoline and 26,000 barrels of gas.

The demand for oil represents an investment of $130 million per year for Nicaragua. In addition, it entails the purchase of replacement parts for operations, lubricants, and other items.

Contracts were signed with the Soviet Union for 300,000 of the 390,000 tons of oil, and shipments are already coming into the country. The other 90,000 tons will come from Cuba during the second quarter of the year.

"With these two deliveries, we have a guaranteed supply for the first 6 months of the year," Melendez said.

Melendez, who is also a candidate for the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] alternate seat on the Managua Municipal Council, said that in order to guarantee the remaining 310,000 tons, Nicaragua is already negotiating with Bulgaria, Germany, and Hungary, all countries which contributed to the supply of oil last year.

On the subject of shipments of liquified petroleum gas, Melendez said that since the month of October, an average of 700 barrels per day, representing 15 percent more than the established plan for 600 barrels, have been distributed.

This easing in the gas supply made it possible to satisfy the national demand, so that as of the present there is a sufficient reserve in the storage facilities.

Prospects

The quota of 700 barrels per day will be maintained for this month, this official said, and he added that this will serve to cover 100 percent of the supply to the population.

In another connection, Melendez stressed the effort put forth by the refinery workers, who have made technical adaptations to the plants so as to make an increase in production possible.

He added that contracts for better quality crude oil were signed, and also various imports of gas were made.

New Investments

In order to rebuild the stock of gas cylinders, the government will this year invest in the purchase of new tanks and valves to replace those which are obsolete and are allowing gas leaks. "This represents a serious effort to show increased concern throughout the whole year," the director for hydrocarbons added.

In connection with the gasoline supply, Melendez said that 2,000 barrels are distributed daily, thus guaranteeing domestic consumption. He added that the sale of gas at the service stations is unrestricted. At the same time, he praised the effort being made by filling-station owners to improve service to the population.

Panama

Foreign Minister Views Safe-Conducts, Relations

PA0903014490 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2333 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Julio Linares by unidentified reporter; date and place not given]

[Text] [Announcer] Foreign Minister Julio Linares has said that his ministry is striving to normalize relations with the Latin American countries.

[Begin recording] [Linares] This depends entirely on us, and I see that relations are improving. I had a telephone conversation with the Colombian foreign minister yesterday, and he told me that he will soon be sending his ambassador to Panama. I have also talked with other foreign ministers. One of them in particular—I am withholding his name at his request—asked me not to make the public announcement because he personally wants to announce the reestablishment and normalization of relations with the Republic of Panama next week. Therefore, I am very optimistic about the normalization of relations.

[Reporter] What can you tell us about our diplomatic corps abroad?

[Linares] We are working on our diplomatic corps abroad, and we have begun to make some appointments. We will announce some of these appointments soon.

[Reporter] It has been said that the government will also grant safe-conduct for the various military officers who are in asylum at several embassies.

[Linares] The Foreign Ministry has asked some embassies to not grant safe-conducts to the military officers in asylum at their respective embassies. We requested this because we are convinced and know that they are not being politically persecuted, but rather they are persons who are charged with common crimes, and they do not deserve to be granted safe-conducts according to the provisions of the Caracas Convention or the current international provisions.

[Reporter] What will happen to the persons who are in asylum at several embassies and who have charges pending?

[Linares] Let us not get ahead of cases that might come up, but I have told you what the Foreign Ministry's stand is. [end recording]

Former Defense Forces Officer Leaves for Peru

PA0803223790 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Former Major Edgardo Lopez Grimaldo, member of the defunct Panama Defense Forces [FDP], left for Lima, Peru on the afternoon of 6 March after the Panamanian authorities issued him a safe-conduct on 1 March. Lopez Grimaldo was granted political asylum by the Peruvian Government.

Lopez Grimaldo, a former military officer and a staunch supporter of deposed General Manuel Antonio Noriega, was accompanied by two Peruvian Embassy officials when he arrived at Tocumen International Airport at 1300, three hours before the departure of the Eastern flight that would take him to his destination.

The departure of Lopez Grimaldo, top spokesman of the deposed Panamanian military regime, went unnoticed. This would be the first stage that the officials and friends of the former military regime who sought refuge in the various embassies with the intention of obtaining political asylum must complete.

Endara Denies Triumvirate Ruling Country

PA0903023290 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Those who say a triumvirate is ruling the country are foolish, President Guillermo Endara has said, stating that he will exercise his leadership role. As he continues his fast, Endara also said the army will be banned in Panama.

For the second consecutive day President Guillermo Endara maintains his fast, which is not a protest against the United States but rather a way to express solidarity with Panamanians suffering from hunger and poverty. Endara admitted he has a hearty appetite, but said that his fasting is a way to share the pain and hunger of the Panamanian people. The presidential office is operating temporarily at the Metropolitan Cathedral, where the Panamanian president is taking care of his duties. President Endara is surrounded by relatives, friends, followers, and his fiancee Ana Mae Diaz. Less than 24 hours since he began his fasting, the medical report reveals that Endara is in optimal physical and mental condition and in good spirits.

This morning, Vice Presidents Guillermo Ford and Ricardo Arias Calderon visited the president, with whom they exchanged some viewpoints about the national situation. Panamanian Archbishop Monsignor Marcos Gregorio McGrath prayed for several minutes along with President Endara. Msgr. McGrath said he would like people who visit Endara to also pray a lot. The president's action is very positive and is a way to share the poverty and needs of many Panamanians, McGrath added.

Shortly after this, a U.S. Congress delegation from the Panama Canal Affairs Commission, accompanied by U.S. Ambassador Deane Hinton, exchanged viewpoints with Endara on the operation and efficiency of the waterway. The congressmen from Maryland and Michigan gave President Endara a cap provided with a radio for his entertainment while he fasts. My fasting, President Endara said, is not for political reasons, but rather has a religious and spiritual nature. Endara said he is only drinking water and is abstaining from eating.

In remarks to this station, Endara said that constitutional amendments are needed to democratize the Constitution, which still bears traces of the dictatorship. To carry out these reforms, he said that he is using the model of the Costa Rican Constitution, which bans militarism and eliminates the army. Panamanians want an apolitical Public Force devoid of power and subordinate to civilian authority.

[Endara] "The president of the Republic is the one truly in charge of the Public Force. I must add that there has been no talk of creating a defense ministry. It is true that on certain occasions I heard the Christian Democratic Party propose the need to create a defense ministry, but I must honestly tell you that it has not mentioned anything about that recently. You must recall that the government and justice minister is subordinate to the president. Of course, I fully trust him. The minister not only keeps me informed about what he is doing with regard to the Public Force, but is constantly asking me for decisions on it.

[Unidentified reporter] "Are you planning to conduct a referendum to consolidate your government?

[Endara] "The referendum would be on the constitutional amendments. Such a referendum can also serve to show the backing that this government has, because in it the government will propose measures that are inherent to the democratic system we are trying to implement."

[Announcer] President Endara reacted to criticism from independent politicians who question his leadership and feel that the government is being run by a triumvirate. One of those who share this view is Carlos Ivan Zuniga, president of the Popular Action Party, a party that is currently in the process of being formed.

[Zuniga] "President Endara must take the reins. He must rule. This triumvirate must end. We did not vote for a triumvirate. We chose President Endara, and he must assume his historical responsibility because history will not speak of a triumvirate but either of his good or bad government.

[Endara] "The fact that a triumvirate is being mentioned is complete nonsense. I have two excellent vice presidents. Why should I push them from my government? I have them in two key ministries. The fact that they are vice presidents does not mean that I have to push them aside, as was the old practice. It used to be that the vice presidents had to wait to see how they could oust the president in order to replace him. I do not intend to be a dictator-president. I do not plan to say: We are going to do what Guillermo Endara says and that is that. We were used to that practice because that is what happened for 21 years, but now we are under a democratic regime where there is leadership, and I intend to exercise that leadership role. I am not a kingpin. I am not a dictator. I do not have the vocation to be one. In addition, I made the commitment to the people to establish a democracy, a democracy where many make the decisions. The entire people make the decisions."

Paper Criticizes Endara for 'Flaccid Democracy'

PA0903011190 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 2 Mar 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Ostrich Policy or Flaccid Democracy"]

[Text] The Panamanian community is concerned about a number of incidents that have moved the country, and also about the effects that daily events have on the members of the current government.

All of Panama was waiting expectantly yesterday for the "important statements" that Guillermo Endara Galimany, the constitutional president of the Republic, would make at the opening session of the Legislative Assembly. Endara is the first magistrate of the nation at a time of upheaval, resulting from the consequences of the 20 December 1989 events and the traumatic aftermath of misery and corruption in a country oppressed by 21 years of dictatorship. But much to the surprise of friend and foe alike, President Endara's speech had more form than content. Endara even introduced a whimsical element: the announcement of a "political fast" in the Metropolitan Cathedral, which is not justified at this time, when he is at the eye of a storm that is seriously threatening the weak structures of his government—or flaccid democracy, as the government policy is already being called.

We do not want to believe that the flattering and servile elements who are the curse and downfall of all good leaders have already discreetly entrenched themselves around President Endara, but it is infuriating that there has not yet been decisive, firm, rapid, and effective action in response to a number of denunciations made and to events that are taking place in Panama. For instance, every day there are questions—but very few convincing answers—regarding the ineffectiveness of the Public Force in fighting the increasing wave of thefts in the metropolitan area. In the case of the attempt to impound the assets of the Panama America Publishing House, we have denounced the irresponsible manner in which the official of the Labor and Social Welfare Ministry is handling the case, but in response have received only laconic communiques from that ministry. This attitude of the ministry officials can be interpreted as unspoken support for workers who were pawns of the tyranny. There is no other explanation for the lack of a clear-cut stand in a situation in which the owners of a business are inexplicably being sued by those who used it for their benefit when it was taken away from its legitimate owners.

These cases, as well as the denunciations by the attorney general about persons in the government, whose names have not yet been released and who are interceding on behalf of pro-Noriega defendants; the situation of the refugees and the homeless, which is a time bomb that is about to explode; and the "cadres" of the dictatorship who have infiltrated the government and who ironically are now more civic-minded than those who have always been militants of the opposition; must be causes for concern for President Endara, who appears, in view of the impending doom, to be adopting the ostrich's way of trying to elude the problems.

People respect strong governments, not weak ones. The Panamanian people do not favor the political figure of a

triumvirate, no matter how much it is presented as a requirement for a much-touted unity. Consequently, we would like to advise the president that the people expect more energy from the first magistrate of the nation and that political fasts, justifiable during times of opposition, now merely delay actions that should be taken immediately.

Time is the government's greatest enemy. The panorama is still dark, despite the liberation. We cannot afford to indulge in metaphysics while the counterrevolution and conspirators work in the shadows, nurturing dreams of wreaking vengeance on the civilians who wrested the festering scabs of militarism from power.

We reiterate: Unemployment and poverty are the major problems that are weighing down Panama, and President Endara must act now. The historic responsibility that Mr. Endara bears calls for immediate action.

Article Says FP Plotting Against Government

PA0803212390 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 7 Mar 90 p 15

[Unattributed article: "They Want To Beat the Hell Out of the Civic Crusade Oligarchs"]

[Text] A high-ranking source linked to the Public Force [FP] has reported that FP members are earning fat salaries, own luxury automobiles, have mistresses to whom they are giving jobs and houses, feel intense hatred for civilians, and—above all—are plotting to overthrow the current government. The source claims to have witnessed how, during fits of rage, military men have vowed in their headquarters "to beat the hell out of" the oligarchs and civilians as soon as "the gringos" leave.

"There has not been any change in mentality whatsoever," the source said. "There seem to be more soldiers than ever and their ridiculous uniforms are not what matters. What matters is that they have the mentality of a tiger that has tasted human blood."

The source recounted how he recently heard one of the senior officers say the following so everybody could hear: "These gringo sons of bitches will have to leave some day and then you will see. They cannot invade us a second time." The statement was made after General Marc Cisneros paid a visit to the FP garrisons, which annoyed a Panamanian officer.

Our source added that "the statements made by Civic Crusade leader Tomas Herrera are absolutely true because all indications are that FP officers are planning to overthrow the government. They are all united and armed and have their old spirit of comradeship."

"As Herrera has asserted," those who tried to depose Noriega on 16 March 1988 and 3 October 1989 never thought of restoring democracy in Panama. They attempted their coups to take Noriega's position themselves," said the source, adding that "the fact that the military men were humiliated and later mistreated and jailed under subhuman conditions has not caused them to forget their past of cooperation with the dictatorship or their illegal acquisition of wealth."

"We can forgive them but cannot forget what they did, much less give them weapons and power once more to supposedly protect our lives and honor, because we know that they will attack us and seize control of the nation again," the source said.

Our very high-ranking source said: "I personally do not intend to sit still and allow them to abuse us again. I am preparing to leave for some other country where democracy is not at risk. What hurts me is that all of this is happening because of the excessive ambition of politicians who are recreating the monster for electoral and political purposes. Sooner or later they will be swallowed up by the whirlpool that the newly formed FP will eventually whip up."

Persons who have access to the main headquarters, which are located in the former offices of the Traffic Department, have reported that senior officers in those quarters are constantly holding secret meetings. Nobody knows what they discuss in those meetings, and they have continued appointing mistresses to positions with salaries of over 950 balboas a month.

The same garrison-type language, the same methods and aberrations of the old Panama Defense Forces [FDP], continue to be heard and seen in the central FP headquarters.

The source said that the same atmosphere that prevailed during the 21 years of dictatorship prevails now in the garrisons, the only difference being that it has now turned into hatred because the military lost the privileges and perks it had for all those years. These Panamanians, who had power of life or death over the rest of their fellow citizens, could dispose of money belonging to the nation and all its enterprises and could even dispose of private businesses and properties. They still have estates worth millions, plush mansions, flashy automobiles, and accounts in which they have millions of dollars. They long for all that, and those who were not arrested by Noriega and his henchmen publicly say that they owe all they have to "their General Noriega" and that it will not be long before they settle accounts with the oligarchs who "ruined their lives."

"Almost all of the officers—that is, the ones who have been released from jail and the ones who were transferred from Noriega's FDP to the FP—have luxury automobiles provided by the state or some other government office," the source said.

Soviet Envoy Signs Chamber of Commerce Agreement

PA0803143990 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 7 Mar 90 p 14B

[Report by Eduardo Alvarado]

[Text] The Panamanian Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Agriculture and the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industries signed a cooperation agreement on 6 March.

In the presence of domestic and foreign media, Messrs. Raul Adames, Expocomer [Commercial Exposition] president, and Igor K. Kanaev, USSR commercial representative in Costa Rica, signed an agreement that established that both parties will take advantage—within their respective competitive limitations—of all the commercial experience of both organizations.

The agreement also notes the potential of Soviet and Panamanian organizations, firms, and companies to consolidate and increase economic and commercial links and contacts.

Both chambers expect the pact to allow them to establish closer contacts since they have agreed that there is a possibility of increasing economic and commercial relations—always within the legal framework of both countries.

One of the contract's clauses notes: "The USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industries" will work with its Panamanian counterpart to assist Panamanian exporters and those involved in promoting Panamanian products to participate in international commercial expositions in the Soviet Union.

PDC Legislator Views Noriega's Frozen Accounts

PA0803233090 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 6 Mar 90 p 12

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] Jose Antonio Sossa, Christian Democratic Party [PDC] legislator, said on 5 March that officials of the Foreign Ministry and the Attorney General's Office should take the necessary steps to claim General Manuel Antonio Noriega's accounts abroad, instead of distracting their efforts by granting safe-conducts to the supporters of the previous regime.

Sossa warned that it would be quite just if that money were delivered to Panama to resolve the country's problems. However, he said, we run the risk that the United States and other countries that have frozen Noriega's assets for his drug-trafficking links will "divide" these funds "among themselves."

To avoid this, the legislator proposed launching legal actions to claim the full amount of the frozen accounts, instead of wasting time granting safe-conducts to criminals who have been clearly identified as such by the Panamanian people.

Jose Antonio Sossa criticized the attitude allegedly taken by some government political leaders, who are more worried about employing their relatives and associates in high-paid positions than in confronting the huge problems of the Panamanians.

The PDC legislator also criticized "the persons commissioned" to obtain the foreign economic aid. Sossa added that they have "sat down to await" that aid, and have launched a "demagoguery campaign typical of an election" instead of carrying out their duties to materialize the loans.

Paper Questions Cost To Unfreeze Funds in U.S.

PA0803142090 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 8 Mar 90 p 1

[Editorial: "The People Demand an Explanation"]

[Text] The people have been greatly surprised to learn that, despite Panama's difficult economic situation, the Cabinet Council has authorized $500,000 to pay for the legal expenses needed to promote the lifting of economic sanctions imposed by the U.S. Government, including the unfreezing of funds belonging to the Republic of Panama.

Resolution No. 2 of 2 Janaury authorizes $1 million to pay for operating and personnel expenses of the Panamanian Embassy in Washington.

The Cabinet Council's decision has aroused discontent because the U.S. economic sanctions have cost us much sweat and many tears, and it is not fair to have to pay large sums of money to unfreeze funds that belong to Panama. This money is to be paid to the same lawyers who helped impose the sanctions. Neither this government nor the previous one asked for these funds to be frozen. Therefore, the people deserve a good explanation as to why we have to pay $500,000 to unfreeze them.

Bomb Reportedly Defused at Local Company

PA0803172490 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 7 Mar 90 p 20

[From "The Griper" column]

[Text] A bomb was defused yesterday at the Visat [cable television] company. In addition, the Circle Theater had to be evacuated last night because of a bomb threat. The bomb search at the Circle Theater is continuing as we go to press.

Argentina

U.S. Vice President's Visit, Meeting Previewed

PY0803163190 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2341 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Mar (EFE)—President Carlos Menem will promote U.S. investments in Argentina at his meeting with U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle in Buenos Aires on 13 March. Diplomatic Sources told EFE today that, with bilateral relations at their best level in the past few decades, Menem and Quayle will discuss matters of common interest. These sources added that Quayle's visit, which will last less than a day, is a ratification of U.S. support for the consolidation of Argentine democracy.

They also stressed "the good level of dialogue" between Menem and U.S. President George Bush, who over the past few days has sent two letters of support for the drastic economic adjustment plan implemented by the Argentine Government.

Menem will talk with Quayle on the need to improve trade between the two countries, to expand investments, and to transfer U.S. technology to Argentina. U.S. enterprises are also interested in creating joint ventures with Argentine companies for investment projects, which will increase employment opportunities and encourage economic development.

The Argentine Government also wants the United States to support negotiations for the release of IMF and World Bank credits that have been suspended due to Argentina's nonfulfillment of the economic goals agreed on with those financial organizations.

The sources denied the possibility of discussions on the Argentine nuclear project and the manufacturing of the "Condor-2" missile, saying that the independent development of Argentine nuclear technology is not subject to discussion because it is under the control of international safety organizations.

Referring to the "Condor-2," the sources stated that "in meetings between Menem and Bush, it has been established very clearly that Argentina will not export missile-construction technology that is the result of their own research." The construction of this missile, in which Egypt and Iraq have also participated, according to press reports in Buenos Aires, has raised alarm among U.S. and British authorities.

Dan Quayle, who will remain in Buenos Aires until the early morning of 14 March, when he will travel to Brazil, will meet with his Argentine counterpart, Eduardo Duhalde, and congressmen of the ruling Peronist party and the main opposition forces.

Quayle's visit will coincide with that of the heads of the Spanish and Italian Governments, Felipe Gonzalez and Giulio Andreotti, respectively. President Carlos Menem will receive the visitors on 14 March at the Olivos presidential residence, outside Buenos Aires.

Minister Says Military 'Could Be Used' at Home

PY0803224690 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 8 Mar p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN)—Interior Minister Julio Mera Figueroa made it clear yesterday that "the government is not considering any internal conflict hypothesis" and ruled out the possibility of calling on the Armed Forces to repress looting and social unrest for the time being.

However, Mera Figueroa underlined that the Justicialist administration "would use the military" if the situation becomes serious enought to justify that move.

The minister explained that "the Armed Forces can intervene in internal unrest because the famous appendix to the Defence Law passed during the radical administration—which prevents the Armed Forces from participating in internal conflicts—"was not approved by Congress."

Mera Figueroa staged a stormy press conference to state that the controversial Decree 392/90 "only introduces a change in the name of the advisory committee created by (ex-President Raul) Alfonsin." The National Security Council (Cosena) created after the terrorist attack on the La Tablada Army Regiment last year was thus reportedly transformed into a National Defence Council. Human rights organizations had denounced the return to legally permitting the military to participate in internal conflicts through the new decree.

The Salta Justicialist leader went even further to point out that while the COSENA was formed by the Armed Forces Chiefs-of-Staff together with political authorities, the new body accepts the presence of the military top brass "if the circumstances call for it."

The climate at the conference became extremely tense when the minister accused the foreign media representatives of "completely irresponsible threatment of the new decree and distorting truth with information which does great damage to the image of the country."

As for the presence of the appendix in the Official Gazette, Mera Figueroa emphasized that it sould not have been there and said he would order a secretary to demand that National Administrative Investigations Bureau chief Ricardo Molinas investigate "who is responsible for that appendix being in the text of the law."

Meanwhile, some 500 dwellers of shanty-towns in Greater Rosario staged a demonstration on the Buenos Aires-Rosario route to demand the re-establishment of the distribution of National Food Plan (PAN) boxes. The demonstrators, who behaved peacefully, warned that if they were left without food, they could start looting supermarkets as in May last year. Several food stores and supermarkets were in fact looted yesterday.

Finally, most human rights organizations will carry out a march on Congress tomorrow to protest against "hunger, repression and impunity."

Former President Alfonsin Calls for Party Accord

PY0903011690 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 8 Mar p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN)—Former President Raul Alfonsin broke his silence yesterday over the issue of a possible cross-party accord when he made a public plea for politicans to put aside their differences and "work together in the search for solutions."

The Radical leader warned that the only alternatives to a pact were the establishment of more authoritarian decrees in the vein of the military decree and the alleged closure of Congress, a measure whose precedents, he said, "are now being studied by men close to President Carlos Menem."

He added, referring to recent reports of an imminent coup d'etat, that former rebel leaders Mohamed Ali Seineldin and Aldo Rico were "madmen" who constituted a "real threat to the system."

Alfonsin said the very existence of the country was at stake. "It is crucial," he said, "that all parties including the Peronists and Radicals align together, without sectarianism, without divisions and without underhand attacks to gain points."

The party chairman qualified this appeal for unity by saying that he was not asking for "co-government," just a short-term but universal expression of support for the government.

And he dismissed some of his own party members' unwillingness to participate in a pact claiming that "the UCR is indivisible and ready to help the nation." He accused presidential foreign debt advisor Alvaro Alsogaray of "playing the agent provocateur...and trying to prevent any possibility of an agreement."

Alfonsin said that talks to iron out policy differences should be held "at once since markets are now showing some stability."

The call for national unity followed Tuesday [6 March] night's summit between Radical and Justicialist party leaders in which "a path for dialogue" was cut.

Vice-President Eduardo Duhalde said that although no specific measures had been agreed, "a firm wish for agreement" was expressed at the encounter which was also attended by Julio Mera Figueroa, Eduardo Menem and Carlos Grosso for the PJ and Cesar Jaroslavsky, Raul Alconada Sempe, Horacio Jaunarena and Alfredo Orgaz for the UCR.

PJ chairman Antonio Cafiero said that the government's next step in installing the pact would be delayed until the party's National Convention on March 23.

The postponement of the assembly, previously slated for tomorrow, prompted criticism from Buenos Aires lieutenant-governor Luis Macaya who attacked some Peronist elements for "dragging their feet" on pact negotiations and demanded that they "get serious and abandon this double-talk."

Party sources said that the critical National Convention had been put forward on the express orders of President Menem, who felt that any publicized internal disagreement would "harm the course of the economic plan."

The Senate, meanwhile, took steps to facilitate the pact's passage yesterday when Justicialist bench leader Alberto Rodriguez Saa announced the presentation today of a bill empowering the government to install a political peace pact to last between 60 and 90 days.

"This is the Senate's way of showing to society our concern for the crisis," Rodriguez Saa declared.

Opposition party politicians from the Lower House, however, continued to vary in their reactions to pact deliberations.

The Radical Party, in particular, came under fire for obstructing progress by subordinating the principle of agreement to their insistence on changes in economic policy.

Radical deputy Jesus Rodriguez, despite attending Tuesday's rapprochement talks with the Peronists, reiterated that "I won't participate in any pact of complicity with their social and economic policies."

Rodriguez shrugged off Alfonsin's appeal to present the pact as top priority with the comment that "of course there is internal debate."

And the Christian Democrat Party stirred the pot even more when they issued a communique instructing all party members holding government posts to hand in their resignations in protest over "these anti-popular and repressive liberal policies."

Bolivia

Interior Minister Discounts U.S. Envoy's Remarks

PY0803141090 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] The democratic and constitutional system has been consolidated in the country. Interior Minister Guillermo Capobianco made this statement in reference to remarks by U.S. Ambassador to Bolivia Roberto Gelbard. Gelbard had stated that the existence of drug trafficking groups, which include Colombian citizens, is endangering the democratic system in Bolivia.

In response to persistent questions by reporters assigned to the Government Palace, the interior minister was very cautious in commenting on the U.S. ambassador's remarks. He said that the report on the existence of

powerful drug trafficking rings in Bolivia was not true. The statement that drug traffickers are jeopardizing the democratic system is an exaggeration, he said, adding that the U.S. ambassador's remarks must be minimized.

Capobianco noted that it was clear that there are several foreign elements involved in illegal drug trafficking activities in Bolivia. They are not only Colombians but people from other countries as well, he said. However, in Bolivia we are not talking about mafias like those operating in Colombia or in the United States.

The government believes that interdiction activities are necessary but that the major task is to replace coca crops through the implementation of alternative development programs.

Presence of Colombians Denied

PY0703034290 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Roberto Barbery, national director of state security and intelligence, has labeled as speculation the reports that a powerful gang of Colombian drug traffickers is operating in Bolivia. Barbery was unwilling to answer reporters' questions after his meeting with President Jaime Paz, with whom he addressed several issues of concern for the Bolivian people. Barbery did not give a clear explanation. [passage omitted]

Concerning press reports on the presence of a gang of Colombian drug traffickers in Bolivia, Barbery said:

[Begin Barbery recording] [Words indistinct] there is possibly much speculation on the subject, because Colombian drug traffickers are believed to have left their country for various South American countries. If I made any statement on the issue, I might hinder future investigation. For the time being we consider those reports speculation. [end recording] [passage omitted]

'Confidential Report' Cited

PY0805125190 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0150 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] La Paz, 5 Mar (EFE)—According to a "confidential" report revealed today, the special force assigned to combat drug trafficking has confirmed the existence of gangs of drug traffickers that operate in the country armed with modern weapons. The report claims there is a "drug ring" headed by a trafficker known as "El Colombiano," who murdered antinarcotics police officer Severo Higueras on [date indistinct] February in an ambush in Isinuta, Chapare, Cochabamba Department, southeast of La Paz.

The special force indicated that the arrests of alleged drug traffickers Cidar Torrico Panoso, Edil Paz, and Federico Pedraza as part of the murder investigation, have uncovered the existence of groups involved in buying drugs in the coca-producing zones.

The report also indicates that there is another "drug ring" made up of about 30 or 40 men equipped with assault rifles and shotguns that operates under the orders of a drug trafficker known as "El Camba." The report notes that one of the arrested men said under interrogation that the (?girlfriend) of "El Camba" bought about 1,000 kg of drugs from "dozens of small drug traffickers in the zone" just before the ambush of the police patrol.

The drugs, bought with "El Colombiano's" money, were to be taken to an airfield [words indistinct] 15 km from Isinkta, and from there to Beni, on the Brazilian border, according to one of the arrested men.

The report goes on to say that the drug traffickers, in addition to being connected to middlemen who buy the drugs in Chapare, have a logistical support center that warns them of antidrug patrols. The report notes that the "police patrol's overconfidence, its lack of communications equipment, and the poor condition of its armaments and heavy ammunition were the reasons for the ambush." The report recommends [words indistinct] of weapons and a thorough evaluation of information provided by informers before carrying out any antidrug action.

Minister Terms Coca Eradication Plan 'Positive'

PY0903012890 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 22 Feb 90 p 10

[Report by Pedro Pinto]

[Excerpt] Santa Cruz, 21 Feb —Interior Minister Guillermo Capobianco Ribera has reported that the eradication plan is being implemented in excellent fashion. According to technical reports, some 688 hectares of coca crops were eradicated during February.

Capobianco said that the eradication of this much coca is positive, adding that it is also a record.

Capobianco said that "the implementation of the Coca Eradication General Plan in Bolivia is positive. An increasing number of coca growers are supporting the government's plans in view of the low price being paid for the coca leaves, among other factors. A record-low price of $10 is being paid for a coca leaf shipment. This has never occurred before. This situation is being caused by external elements." The Coca Eradication General Plan is described by the president of the Republic as the "Coca for Development" plan, which is aimed at replacing a type of economy rather than just a single crop, and it is working well. [passage omitted]

Plans for Biological War Denied

PY0803220190 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 22 Feb 90 p 7

[Text] Agriculture, Livestock, and Campesino Affairs Minister Mauro Bertero has emphatically denied that

the Bolivian Government has agreed to wage a biological and microbiological war against coca plantations in Bolivia.

The minister thus rebutted articles published by THE WASHINGTON POST referring to the development of certain insects known as "malumbia" to destroy coca plantations in Bolivian territory.

Minister Bertero asserted that the agreements signed during the Cartagena summit only provide for the implementation of alternate development programs with the participation of the peasants and within the framework of the Bolivian theory of "coca for development".

The minister added: "White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater was more explicit when he said that neither troops nor worms would be shipped to any South American country without an invitation. Moreover, he said that no biological war was being organized."

In ratifying what Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora had said, Bertero noted that Law 1008, which was drawn up by the Bolivian people to be observed by the Bolivian people, is currently in force. He added that that law prohibits the use of herbicides, defoliants, or any other type of chemical or biological agent.

Minister Bertero added that the coca producers need not worry because the government guarantees and respects the agreements signed.

The minister also added that an alternate development program will be implemented during the second half of 1990 and this is when people will be able to appreciate the results of the program, which will benefit the peasants as a whole.

Brazil

Ortega Reportedly Will Attend Prestes' Funeral

PY0903025490 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0229 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Rio de Janeiro, 8 Mar (EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega will attend the funeral of Luis Carlos Prestes, the long-standing leader of the Brazilian Communist Party, on 9 March in Rio de Janeiro. This information was announced by Globo Television, which cited sources in the Brazilian Foreign Ministry.

Globo said that the Brazilian Foreign Ministry received the official notification that the Nicaraguan president will arrive in Rio de Janeiro tomorrow.

Luis Carlos Prestes died from leukemia on 6 March in a Rio de Janeiro hospital at the age of 92. He will be buried in the city's Sao Joao Batista cemetery tomorrow.

The wake of the former secretary general of the Brazilian Communist Party is being held in the Rio de Janeiro Legislative Assembly where thousands of people have come to honor him. [passage omitted]

Appointment of Central Bank Members Proposed

PY0903014690 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Mar 90 p B 1

[Text] President-elect Fernando Collor has reached an agreement with current President Jose Sarney to appoint, in advance, four new members of the Central Bank (BC). Collor asked Sarney to submit a message to the Senate appointing Ibrahim Eris as the BC president; Antonio Claudio Sochaczwsky as the foreign debt department director; Gustavo Loyola as the banking area director, and Luis Eduardo Alves de Assis as the capital market director. The document explaining the reasons for these appointments was signed by current Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega. Sarney signed the message last night and will send it to the Senate today.

Collor decided to ask Sarney for this "favor" last week following a meeting with his Economy Minister-designate Zelia Cardoso de Mello.

Eduardo Teixeira, one of Zelia's economic advisers at the "Bridal Cake" building, alerted her to the fact that the Constitution stipulates that the appointment of the BC members must be approved by Congress. On 5 Mar Raimundo Lira (PMDB-PB) [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party - Paraiba State], who is the president of the Senate Economic Affairs Commission, said that the four appointments can be accepted within three days.

The message must be read during a special session, and has to be approved by the Senate Economic Affairs Commission before it can be submitted to the Senate. Lira has been "Collor's supporter" since the election campaign. He can designate a spokesman to address the issue and can summon the commission for an urgent meeting tomorrow. Lira said that as soon as the commission approves the designations, they can be formally submitted to the Senate before 8 March.

Sarney did not hesitate at Collor's request. Civilian Household Chief Luis Roberto Ponte was the mediator of the negotiations at the Planalto Palace. Yesterday morning Sarney surprisingly telephoned Mailson da Nobrega and ordered him to write and sign the message, giving the reasons for the appointments. The Constitution establishes that the Finance Minister can veto the message. Mailson endorsed the appointments made by Zelia.

There was some doubt this morning regarding Ibrahim Eris' legal designation as the BC president. This afternoon the BC legal department reported that Eris can head the BC irrespective of whether he was born in Brazil or whether he owns 33 percent of the capital of the Linear security and brokerage house.

Chile

Aylwin Discusses Ties With Cuba, Bolivia, Peru

PY0803121790 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0007 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] Santiago, 6 Mar (EFE)—Chilean President-elect Patricio Aylwin today conditioned the reestablishment of diplomatic relations with Cuba to that country's suspension of its military, political and economic support to Chile's Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR) terrorist group. In remarks to EFE, Aylwin expressed his satisfaction over the Peruvian president's decision to attend the Chilean presidential inauguration on 11 March. He also noted that La Paz must first restore diplomatic relations with Chile to hold talks on Bolivia's desire for an outlet to the sea.

Aylwin stated that Cuba's suspension of its support to the FPMR is "a sine qua non condition" for resuming relations, which were severed in 1973 immediately after the military coup in Chile. "We want to maintain relations with every country," the Chilean president-elect told EFE. He added: "It would be very good for Latin America if Cuba could effectively rejoin us at this time in which, for the first time in many years, perhaps in decades, there will be democratic governments throughout the continent."

Aylwin added: "We have the right to ask Cuba to make it quite clear that it will refrain from any act of interference and from supplying any aid to Chilean terrorist groups."

The FPMR, which emerged in December 1983, is made up of militants from communist youth groups and other extreme left organizations, and young exiles who have returned to the country. The FPMR made headlines in August 1986 with the discovery of an arsenal that had been clandestinely shipped into northern Chile. The FPMR was also in the news with the unsuccessful 7 September 1986 attack on Chile's chief executive, General Augusto Pinochet, which claimed the lives of five of Pinochet's bodyguards.

Aylwin also stated that the reestablishment of diplomatic ties with Bolivia "is blocked by the Bolivian decision to break relations with our country." Commenting on Bolivia's aspiration for an outlet to the sea, Aylwin said: "We cannot accept conditions for the reestablishment of relations. If we have relations, we can talk about anything and find solutions to all of our problems." Aylwin continued: "If we do not maintain relations, it is very difficult to hold a dialogue."

Aylwin also commented on Peruvian President Alan Garcia's decision to attend the Chilean presidential inauguration. This will be the first time in more than 100 years (since the 1879 War of the Pacific in which Chile fought against Peru and Bolivia) that a Peruvian president will visit Chile, a gesture with "historic significance" for Aylwin.

The legacy of the Chilean-Peruvian war has not yet disappeared despite the fact that the two countries share common interests and have maintained friendly relations in recent years. Aylwin described the Peruvian president's plan to attend his inauguration "as a gesture which, in addition to greatly honoring me, I must see as very promising for relations between our two countries."

[Passage indistinct] country is willing to participate "in every stage." Commenting specifically on the Group of Eight, Aylwin noted that this group may become a larger Latin American organization. In Aylwin's opinion, the Group of Eight—which is made up of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, and Panama (which is currently excluded because of its domestic political situation)—emerged primarily to support democratic movements in some Latin American countries.

Now that democracy has spread to virtually all Latin American countries, the Group of Eight could become "the seed for a broader organization, because the reasons that prevented other countries from joining have gradually disappeared."

Pinochet, Aylwin Discuss Civilian-Military Ties

PY0803133590 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Future relations between civilians and the Armed Forces, and the transfer of power were the main topics discussed at Patricio Aylwin's private residence during this morning's meeting between the president-elect and General Augusto Pinochet.

According to the future president's report on the 45-minute talk, it was a protocol meeting conducted in an atmosphere of mutual respect. Aylwin pointed out that Pinochet did not mention the concern he has expressed repeatedly over the past few days that the Armed Forces will not accept any harassment or streamlining under the guise of reorganization.

On this issue, and asked whether he planned to prosecute Pinochet, Aylwin noted that he is not contemplating the idea of a trial, much less a harassing attitude toward the Armed Forces. Future investigations, however, could affect persons who have been involved in criminal actions, the president-elect added. He pointed out that persons with clear consciences have nothing to fear.

Aylwin noted that Gen. Pinochet reiterated that he would not be subordinated to the defense minister, as the latter would just serve as an intermediary between the chief of state and the Army commander in chief.

[Begin Aylwin recording] I reminded him that the Constitution establishes that the Armed Forces be subordinated to the Defense Ministry. He pointed out that this situation was the result of the [word indistinct], that the president expressed himself through this, and that the minister was not an isolated step.

I reminded him that in the War of the Pacific, Minister Sotomayor was the Armed Forces chief. He pointed out that General Vergara resisted obeying Minister Sotomayor, but recognized that when Minister Sotomayor pulled a paper from his sleeve that contained an order from President Pintos, only then did Gen. Vergara obey the orders of Minister Sotomayor. [end recording]

Regarding Gen. Pinochet, Aylwin said that this is definitely a man with amusing ideas.

The future president also harshly criticized remarks made by Vice Admiral Fernando Navajas, who said, among other things, that if that legal order were breached, then the Armed Forces would be entitled to use force.

[Begin Aylwin recording, in progress] ...admiral remembers the glorious tradition established by Captain Prat, one of our foremost heroes, whom all Chileans honor. I just want to recall that this honorable and glorious tradition was established in the struggle to defend our fatherland against foreign enemies, not to insult or to assume that there is a threat of underhandedness from other Chileans. The admiral's comments do not help to reconcile Chileans, and I hope his opinions are not shared by the institution he represents. [end recording]

Regarding some remarks reportedly made by Senator-elect Beltran Urenda, Aylwin pointed out that he or his government will certainly not harbor an attitude of harassment or hostility toward Gen. Pinochet. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Carlos Caceres, who also attended the meeting at Aylwin's residence, reported that relations between the Armed Forces and the future government of Patricio Aylwin was one of the topics reviewed today. Caceres said that a very cordial and respectful atmosphere prevailed during the meeting, and that it was very interesting. [passage omitted]

Caceres indicated that, among other issues, Aylwin and Pinochet also discussed future relations between the Armed Forces and the incoming government. Viewpoints were exchanged and positions made known, Caceres said. This is valuable for the overall relationship among the commander in chief, the Armed Forces, and the government that will be inaugurated on 11 March, the interior minister pointed out.

Carlos Caceres noted that Gen. Pinochet's warning that he will not accept attempts to change the institutional course of the Armed Forces was also discussed during the meeting. [passage omitted]

The interior minister also admitted that Aylwin and Pinochet discussed Pinochet's statement that, in reviewing problems with the Army, he would deal directly with the president of the Republic and not with the defense minister. [passage omitted]

Global Trade Preference Agreement Approved

PY0803151190 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] Chile has promulgated a law approving the agreement on the global trade preference system [sistema global de preferencias comerciales] that was signed in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, on 13 April 1988. A total of 48 countries signed the agreement; in Latin America this includes Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Haiti, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela. The other members are African and Asian countries.

The agreement recognizes the economic corporation of developing countries as a decisive element in the strategy of collective self-assurance. The agreement is also essential for promoting structural changes for a balanced and equitable process of world development and the establishment of a new world international economic order.

Foreign Debt Reaches Lowest Level in Seven Years

PY0803151990 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] According to the Central Bank, the Chilean foreign debt totalled $16.248 billion as of January this year, its lowest level in seven years. The Central Bank said that $13.174 billion of this total is for middle- and long-term debts, while the rest is for short-term debts. The Central Bank pointed out that the foreign debt peaked in 1986 at $19.501 billion and that, four years after the world recession, all public and financial enterprises are still experiencing high levels of indebtedness.

Naval Chief Confronts Future Interior Minister

PY0803202090 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1713 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] Santiago, 7 Mar (AFP)—Vice Admiral Fernando Navajas has openly confronted future Chilean Interior Minister Enrique Krauss by declaring that he is not interested in what Krauss thinks about a speech that the vice admiral made.

In a speech to his subordinates on 5 March, Navajas announced the interception of plans to "infiltrate, divide, and destroy the Armed Forces," and for this reason he urged his men to exercise their right to the "legitimate use of force" if necessary.

In remarks published today by the afternoon newspaper LA SEGUNDA, President-elect Patricio Aylwin, who will assume office on 11 March after 16 years of military rule, termed "very unfortunate" these remarks, and expressed confidence they do not represent [words indistinct] of the First Naval Zone.

Navajas said: "The only person entitled to judge my speeches is the commander in chief, and he congratulated me for what I said." He was referring to Admiral Jose Toribio Merino, Navy Commander, and a member of the military government junta.

Speaking in Valparaiso, 100 km west of Santiago, where the ceremony of transfer power will be held, Merino yesterday expressed support for his subordinate adding that "there are people trying to divide the Armed Forces."

Teitelboim Files To Legally Register PCCh

PY0803161390 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] After submitting the documents necessary to register the Chilean Communist Party [PCCh] this afternoon, Volodia Teitelboim—the highest-ranking leader of the PCCh—said that the PCCh will recover its legal status for the third time in Chilean history despite the repeated attempts by fascism to dismantle it.

Teitelboim made these comments as he handed the registration documents to Juan Ignacio Garcia, director of the electoral service, in a formal ceremony marked by a certain nervousness, which was overcome by the politeness of those taking part. Teitelboim was accompanied by the members of the PCCh executive board. The PCCh requested its registration as a political party under the slogan "Viva the People." Its emblem is the hammer and sickle surrounded by golden wheat stalks.

Told that the Constitutional Court's sanction against the PCCh and the other parties making up the MDP [Popular Democratic Party] has not been formally revoked, although the eighth article of the Constitution has been abrogated, Teitelboim said:

[Begin recording] [Teitelboim] We hope to encounter no difficulties in the legalization process. We will naturally take any steps that may prove necessary to fully reestablish the PCCh's legal status.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct].

[Teitelboim] This problem has not been presented to us. If it is, we will take it into consideration.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] to register exclusively (?to obtain all the rights and duties) of the other political parties. Are you following all the rules in force?

[Teitelboim] We will fully comply with the duties of a democratic party. We will faithfully comply with them all and.... [end recording]

Asked whether the legal registration of the PCCh was the last defeat to be suffered by the Pinochet regime, Teitelboim said he hoped that this would be the next to last defeat.

Joint Communique With Malaysia Released

PY0803131190 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 1 Mar 90 p C-4

[Text] Chile and Malaysia agreed on 28 February to promote economic cooperation and to increase current levels of trade on the bases of equity and joint benefit, and through increased bilateral exports.

Negotiations will be carried out to reach a trade agreement this year. The agreement will attempt to strengthen markets and to promote meetings between Chilean and Malaysian businessmen and a systematic exchange of statistical and market information.

This information was reported in a joint communique issued by the Chilean and Malaysian Governments during a visit to Chile by Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghafar Bin Baba and his entourage, made up of representatives from Malaysian public and private sectors. The delegation ended its visit yesterday.

The communique states that Ghafar Bin Baba and Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz reaffirmed their support for the UN Charter of international principles that rules relations among states.

They also rejected nuclear testing in the South Pacific, as it threatens the region's environment and ecology. They called upon the nations of the region to join efforts to establish the Pacific basin as a peaceful zone where renewable and nonrenewable resources can be used for the benefit of all.

They also agreed that the Pacific basin, including their two countries, has become a center of world attention, experiencing the greatest economic growth and trade increase in the world.

Errazuriz and Ghafar Bin Baba also voiced their serious concern over the increasing protectionist trend in international trade and expressed their full support for the "Uruguay round" of multilateral trade negotiations and the Punta del Este declaration aimed at changing this trend.

They expressed their satisfaction with the excellent level of bilateral relations and agreed to strengthen efforts to promote greater cooperation in several areas of common interest.

Merino Retires; New Naval Commander Installed

PY0803182090 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Summary] The Navy conducted a ceremony marking an institutional command change in Valparaiso today. During the ceremony Admiral Jose Toribio Merino lowered his banner and Admiral Jorge Martinez Busch, who today assumes the position of Navy commander, raised his. After the ceremony naval squadrons paraded to salute the outgoing and incoming commanders.

* Ambassadorial Appointments Under Consideration

33480300A Santiago HOY in Spanish 12-18 Feb 90 pp 12-13

[Text] The following is a list of ambassadorial candidates being considered by Aylwin's team: Wilna Saavedra, to

Guatemala; Luis Minchel to Honduras; Sergio Mimica to Nicaragua; Jaime Moreno to Costa Rica; there is no nominee for Panama at the moment; a DC (Christian Democrat) involved in human rights issues to El Salvador; a career diplomat to Haiti; Patricio Pozo to the Dominican Republic. The ambassador to Cuba will be nominated in six months; Uldaricio Figueroa to the British West Indies; to Colombia, Jose Sanhueza. Alejandro Magnet, Mario Sharpe and Armando Jaramillo are being considered for posts in Brazil and Uruguay, with Jaramillo also being considered for Turkey. Marcos Sanchez to Paraguay; Carlos Figueroa to Argentina; Jorge Edwards to Peru; Carlos Andrade to Ecuador; German Riesco to Britain; Patricio Miranda to Portugal; Sergio Ossa and Raul Troncoso will be nominated for positions in Italy and The Vatican although it is not yet known who will be assigned to which country. Either Jorge Tapia or Otto Boye will be nominated for The Netherlands post, the latter is also being considered for Hungary. Mariano Fernandez to West Germany; Victor Gonzalez to East Germany; Manuel Valenzuela to Denmark; Carlos Parra to Sweden; Pedro Medrano or Esteban Tomic to Norway; Hernan Montealegre to Switzerland; Homero Gutierrez to Austria; Carlos Eduardo Mena to Czechoslovakia; Max Lira to Poland; Julio Subercaseaux to Romania. Carlos Martinez Sotomayor is being considered for the Soviet Union. Manuel Morales or Pedro Medrano are the likely candidates for the EEC ambassadorial post

* Future Role of Cieplan Defined, Discussed

90ET0120D Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 28 Jan 90 p 14f

[EL MERCURIO interview with Cieplan President Oscar Munoz Goma; date, place not given; first six paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] For the past 14 years, the Center for Economic Research on Latin America, Cieplan, has been an intellectual refuge for economists who oppose current economic policy. The institution dates back to 1975, when, after abandoning the research center where it had been housed at Catholic University, Ceplan decided to become Cieplan in order to sustain the economic viewpoints of the "heterodoxy" during a period when the "orthodoxy" was gaining ground without any counterweight.

From the studies made by the professionals of this corporation have emerged the most important and most serious criticisms of the economic transformations undertaken by the present government. Its members lent form and conceptual force to the criticism that the politicians of the CPPD [Coalition of Parties for Democracy] made of the government during the recent election campaigns. Their impact on the opposition and on the future government is undeniable.

This influence and the consideration of Cieplan economists by the future political authorities has been manifested in the economic appointments they have made. The most important posts on the team in this sector have been given to economists from Cieplan: minister of finance, budget director, minister of labor, and others.

These appointments, however, pose a new challenge to the institution. The exodus of professionals from Cieplan to the government weakens the institution and forces it to redefine its terms for the future. Its principal or most significant task can no longer be to draft alternative policies, to alert the public to alleged errors in current economic policy, or to supply politicians with grounds for their critical positions. A new emphasis will have to be given to the institution.

Furthermore, the relative success that the Chilean economic development process has had on a variety of fronts, based on pillars other than those that the Cieplan economists would have proposed, demands that they rethink the issues on which they were critical and reevaluate some of the elements that have sustained the fruitful economic evolution of the last few years. This is a typically intellectual process that can only be undertaken with the tranquillity of a scholar.

Oscar Munoz, the new president of Cieplan who is replacing Alejandro Foxley, presents his points of view on these matters.

Role of Cieplan

[EL MERCURIO] Aside from administrative issues, what are the parameters of the institution's change in leadership? How will you deal with the future, in which criticism of economic policy will not be the fundamental element of your work, and in which you will be without some of the people who have contributed the most to the institution?

[Munoz] The change is not of major importance for the institution; those of us who are now assuming leadership of Cieplan participated in its foundation, and we have worked very closely with Alejandro Foxley, Ricardo French-Davis, and Jose P. Arellano, among others.

We have been defining the institution's policies jointly, and there is very great continuity; it is the same team that is carrying on.

Somehow Cieplan will have to adjust to the new circumstances, but primarily to the change in the national scene, the institutional scene. We think that this is the end of an era. During all these years, Cieplan served not only to form a school of thought, but also to develop alternative economic policies.

In our opinion, the political change in the country means the end of that stage. Many of our proposals, of which Alejandro Foxley was one of the leading exponents, will now be able to be part of the government's policy.

[EL MERCURIO] But Cieplan played a role not only in the generation of alternative policies, but also as a research center per se.

[Munoz] Indeed, Cieplan continues to pursue a research objective, and that will be maintained. Now we will not feel so compelled to analyze the present situation; we plan to pay more attention to the long term. We will deal with those matters that we believe will be given greater emphasis during this decade.

[EL MERCURIO] Won't the institution's change in emphasis affect agencies' interest in financing projects that no longer have any practical application in the future, such as those related to economic policy?

[Munoz] First of all, the foundations had no intention of training people to enter government or to replace the existing government. The objective was always to develop certain thematic areas. Certainly there is always an interest in seeing the application of those results, seeing some practical validity and relevance. But there has been no explicit interest in backing future government administrations. Therefore we believe that this support will continue.

We feel that the agencies that support this research have a great deal of interest in contributing to certain areas that are becoming popular themes, and to the extent that our interests are compatible, we will continue accepting that support. This is true of the issue of natural resources, which is becoming a key element for financing agencies. We at Cieplan think it will become an increasingly important issue. I am referring to the entire analysis of development based on natural resources, and we see interest in this matter on a variety of fronts, so we think there will be support.

Perestroyka Comes to Cieplan

[EL MERCURIO] World, regional, and national economic developments have given rise to a number of processes in which there is a reconsideration of positions, a revision of thought, an intellectual evolution. That can be perceived partially in the literature you have generated. What stage are you at now? How much remains of the directed economy approach that was advocated 20 years ago? What is your assessment of the private sector's capacity to direct development?

[Munoz] I would say that the proposals that have been advanced in the last few years and months are not the consequence of the electoral situation that we have had, but rather correspond to an evolution of thought that is much broader, deeper, and more lasting. It is a process arising out of reality.

I would say that 20 years ago, during the heyday of the structuralist ideas of ECLA and of the state interventionist approach, we already had some studies conducted under the direction of Sergio Bitar in which a revision of policies and strategies was proposed. These studies indicated that the form of state intervention must be changed, and pointed out the inefficiencies that had resulted from it. At that time we were already looking at the relationship between the state and public enterprises. There was no talk of privatization, because that was not on the agenda, but there was talk of making the public enterprises more efficient, giving them more autonomy, not allowing them to be managed according to bureaucratic criteria.

In any case, the context of that era was one of strong state intervention; it was still felt that the state should be the guiding force in the economy and the engine of development, that public investment had to be the axis of capital accumulation.

[EL MERCURIO] How much of that thinking is left today? What differences are there between that approach and what you are advocating today?

[Munoz] The experience of all these years, not just in Chile, but in Europe, has demonstrated that there was a definite need to liberalize, to rethink the relationship between the state and the private sector. On the other hand, especially in the last few years, the business sector has responded to this, and it has been an important and positive factor in the change in strategy.

In this way, analysts have gained confidence in the ability of the private sector to become a key sector, to become the engine of development and investment.

The state, in turn, became more aware that it had to specialize, that the state cannot be involved in everything. Moreover, we have established over the years that there are some functions that the state has to fulfill and that the private sector cannot: the redistribution of wealth, the protection of the environment, concern for natural resources, education, research, and certain technological areas. The state must specialize, because it does not have the financial capacity, let alone the human resources, to do everything.

[EL MERCURIO] What are the implications of this for the extent of state involvement in business and that of the private sector?

[Munoz] For all these reasons it is apparent that the state has to transfer central responsibility to the private sector in the other areas, the areas of production. It seems clear to me that the situation has changed, that productive and commercial functions must be turned over to the private sector. I think that the private sector has responded well.

This depends, in turn, on the type of policy. I think that in the 1970s there were serious problems with the economic policies that prevented the private sector from fulfilling this function properly, but in recent years we have seen a good response. The state has to lend support to the productive sector, but in a more indirect manner, using the market more. This support takes the form of infrastructure, education, technology, and less of productive activity itself. The support must be logistical, a systemic support in some areas that affect the competitive capacity of the entire productive apparatus, but that have a more general influence as well, that make the system more productive. Examples of these are general and technical education, clear rules, stable economic

policies, and more specific support in some critical areas, primarily in technology, because long periods of time and many resources are required. These are areas where it is more doubtful that the private sector can perform the task.

I would say that the overall context in which this will be applied will be one of stable macropolicies, of openness to the foreign market in terms of industrial policy, indirect forms of intervention or support that do not involve the state directly in productive functions, but rather in logistical support.

Opinion of Recent Economic History

[EL MERCURIO] What is your opinion of Chile's evolution in the last two decades? Your institution was very critical in the literature through the first half of the 1980s, and then it changed its tone and tenor to a more positive approach.

[Munoz] In the last two decades there has been no industrial policy. In the early 1970s, rather than an industrial policy, there was a transformation and change in the system of property ownership. Everything was subordinated to that objective.

Afterwards, from 1973 onward, there was practically no industrial policy. There was a long-term policy, but it was one of institutional transformation, of privatization and liberalization, and there was also a short-term policy that was aimed in the 1970s at controlling inflation.

During that period there was a number of errors in direction that caused a sharp drop in industrial production, all of which culminated in the crisis of 1982. We were very critical at that time.

In the 1980s there were two very clear periods. The first was the era of flailing around, when everyone was struggling for financial survival in the middle of a tremendous crisis. In the second half of the decade, the horizon became clearer. The private sector began to get clear signals, some erroneous policies such as the exchange rate policy were corrected, there was more financial regulation. The signals were clearer. All of this went along with the renegotiation of the debt and the transfers to the private sector that enabled it to recover, and it did so with great success.

The decade ended with a strong and vigorous private sector that has managed to become a leading sector in productive development. This came as a surprise to many, because no one expected it to recover with such strength. As it has become more evident that this is more than a passing phenomenon, I think it has been welcomed with open arms. We are all glad about this trend, and we hope it persists.

Social Renewal

[EL MERCURIO] Another issue that illustrates the conceptual strength that motivates the institution is the type of social policy it has promoted. In this regard, Cieplan has also been very critical of the methods of pursuing social policy, and has developed a number of alternative ideas.

There are those who contend that as the country develops, its social problems are resolved, both for the obvious reason that it has more resources and because development itself entails the integration of formerly excluded social groups into the productive system. What is your position and that of Cieplan on this proposition and on recent experience? Do you believe that the social policies of today should be essentially different from their predecessors, and that we have gained not only technical know-how, but also the awareness that today's realities have proven that the solution to poverty is not exclusively or primarily a question of social policies, but a question of development policy, of facilitating the entry of excluded groups into the productive process?

[Munoz] In my opinion, we can't afford to wait for development policies to solve our social problems, the problems of exclusion, inequality, and extreme poverty. I think that development policies should be buttressed by very explicit and very direct social policies, and here we do see an area exclusively reserved for state action.

I believe that there is a number of areas in which there are serious needs, and they will require priority attention from the state because very broad social sectors are being denied benefits.

If you think of health, social welfare, and even education, there are very serious shortcomings. In those sectors we think the state should make a very great effort and give priority to dealing with the most urgent problems, within the limits of its resources, of course.

The second idea is that to be consistent, and to make sure these efforts are lasting over time, it is essential that they be carried out with the utmost financial and technical responsibility, without exceeding spending limits.

[EL MERCURIO] Don't you think that instruments tend to atrophy, beginning with a well-defined, objective population and ending up with a much larger number of beneficiaries that is significantly different from the one originally targeted for benefits? Don't you think there is a flaw in the conceptual design of social welfare systems? In a certain sense they have been a failure, in that the number of beneficiaries continues to grow ever larger, whereas if they really served to reduce poverty, there would be fewer and fewer beneficiaries.

[Munoz] That is a real problem; programs tend to become diluted. That does not contradict the idea that the state should be concerned with social issues. There the problem would be how to prevent policies from becoming diluted, how to prevent objective groups from ceasing to be objective, how to detect them. We must evaluate experiences. The Scandinavian countries have exemplary social policies.

It seems to me that this problem requires continued monitoring, periodic analyses of the current social situation, just as we do with the economic situation. The same should be done with regard to social issues: evaluate how needs are being met, how programs are working, what is happening to the groups involved.

[EL MERCURIO] Apparently there is not, on this issue, the same process of rapprochement that is occurring with regard to development.

[Munoz] Not to the same extent as on the policies of the industrial sector and development policies, but there is some progress.

The idea of decentralization is an old idea. Besides, during these decades there have been some very rich experiences at the community level that are akin to private initiative. But they amount to community initiative, at the level of neighborhoods or districts, self-help efforts. That is an experience that arose in response to a need, and it will be reinforced in the future.

I don't think anyone likes the idea of the state centralizing everything just because it is the state. Whatever is bureaucratic, centralizing, and slow produces dissatisfaction. In that sense we all favor decentralization and the streamlining of social services. To the extent that it is feasible to apply these measures at the community level, they are a good idea, insofar as they are an effective tool.

All of this has no effect on the fact that there is always a reservoir of social needs that must be met. The state cannot ignore them, and this is especially true of the poorest segments of the population that have been left out of development.

[EL MERCURIO] The population of Chile does not have social groups with undeniable natural disadvantages, such as war veterans or large ethnic groups that cannot adapt to development. Doesn't this suggest to you that the productive apparatus could generate opportunities for everyone in order to boost the degree of self-sufficiency?

[Munoz] I believe it is a fact of life, due to a number of disabilities or the lack of opportunity. There are myriad examples, such as the elderly or children. In these areas the state will always have an important role to play.

* Internal DC Party Posturing Analyzed

90ET0120B Santiago QUE PASA in Spanish 25 Jan 90 pp 14-15

[Article by Paula Coddou: "The Christian Democrats: Zaldivar's Aspirations"]

[Text] The sun is shining as never before on the comrades of the Christian Democratic Party [DC]. It is the main ruling party and the leading force in Congress. The red arrow, which many regarded as outmoded and, to be perfectly honest, all washed up, remains firmly standing. Nothing to do.

It is even difficult these days to discern the differences that divided the party a year ago. The old deck of Freists, "guatones" [pot-bellied], "chascones" [dishevelled], and renovators was somewhat reshuffled after 14 December. Indeed, the most recognizable members of the party right now are the latter, also known as the "magnificent," despite the defeat of their leader Adolfo Zaldivar and his well-known anti-CPPD [Coalition of Parties for Democracy] ideas. For now, no one can say who has the majority in the party, but what is clear is that the day belongs to Aylwin. He has the support of all sectors, and his machinery has clout. However, as a "renovator" commented, unlike former President Frei, his party does not have all of the posts in the government, after a 16-year wait. The dilemma he faces is how to run the party. "Aylwin wants to integrate all the sectors, and for that purpose he will have to use the quota system," said the same source.

Despite these intentions of his, the "guatones" predominate in the cabinet, much to the dismay of "chascones" and renovators. It is assumed that a few ambassadorships and agency posts will be tossed their way, but apparently some notables will not even get to be mayor of Cumpeo. This is true of Carlos Figueroa, and of the "colorin" [strawberry blond] Zaldivar; last weekend, during the general meeting of the party, some deputies-elect asked Zaldivar why he hadn't been given anything, and the man simply didn't know what to say.

Another who fell halfway into disgrace was Ignacio Walker, who was hoping to accompany Enrique Correa as undersecretary general of the government. The president did not give his approval. But he will get a consolation prize with Boeninger.

Nor does Jorge Burgos, future cabinet chief of Enrique Krauss, enjoy his full support. Although Burgos did very good work during the campaign, "he is being made to pay for past injuries." Aylwin reportedly declared that he would not name Burgos to any post, although Krauss even brought him to meetings at La Moneda. Aylwin would not budge. Apparently he even told his minister, when pressed, that if Krauss liked him so much, he should nominate him himself.

Without overlooking the details, it is clear that all this merely amounts to some jockeying for position as a result of having to reconcile the various interests that are involved. For this reason, it is unlikely that the maneuvering will be aggravated by the internal election that is imminent. These elections will probably take place in the last week of March or the first week of April. There is a lot of pressure by the Zaldivarists to hold the elections then. Until last week's Council, they had been scheduled for June.

One of the advantages in moving the elections up to March is that they can coincide with the National Assembly of the party. Behind this proposal lie the interests of "the boy's" followers, for whom this date is convenient. They know that he is at his "peak," and that

by late March there will not yet be any problems with the legislators or with the executive board (dozens of jobs to hand out and thousands of people waiting in line). Moreover, they estimate that if they have to wait till June, Andres could be without a board of directors, since at least two of the five vice presidents—Enrique Krauss and Edgardo Riveros (but apparently not Genaro Arriagada)—will have government posts.

Gutenberg Martinez, on the other hand, would be better off with the elections in mid-year. That would leave enough time for some people who have been appointed to public office to join the Council. There is no doubt that this would give him a better grip on the party. As for who would be the leader of the party, the possibilities that are being considered are: that Andres Zaldivar would stay on, since he is regarded as the most likely prospect so far; that Frei would decide to launch his own candidacy to thwart the aspirations of "the boy"; or that Irureta would emerge as the compromise candidate, to avoid a confrontation. Since the two of them are really vying for something much bigger, the atmosphere is quite charged. The winner would not only be the head of the DC, but also the candidate for 1993. Last Monday the 22nd, there was a meeting among the three of them, and Zaldivar told them that his candidacy is alive. Some "guatones" think that these flights by "the boy" are going too high, and they see Irureta's candidacy as a reasonable way to oppose him. The "Basque" himself, however, has said that he will not go against Zaldivar. Even so, during the Council over the weekend his name was mentioned repeatedly in the corridors of the Hotel Galerias. They say that he could be the point of convergence among Valdesists, Freists, and "Gute's" men. If Eduardo Frei ran, the Juan Hamilton sector would support Zaldivar. But if Frei were to abdicate in favor of Irureta, the "guatones" would split, and Hamilton and Martinez would undoubtedly end up supporting him. "Hamilton, who also considers himself a candidate for 1993, can't let up on 'the boy,'" said one source. Nor can Frei, for the same reasons. Besides, Frei would benefit from the "Irureta option" if it is true, as they say, that his stocks are not too high in the party right now. At any rate, it is unlikely that Irureta will accept, unless it is a solution agreed to by everyone. Zaldivar would also want him to be on the executive board as his right-hand man so that he could run the party. He is trying to convince him.

Another source of strong support for Zaldivar, according to a well-informed source, may also be the "chascones." "The fact is that 'the boy' plays along with them and includes them. He even had Felipe Sandoval working on his campaign."

Despite the criticism, it is only natural that "the boy" would not want to let go of the party. He was even trying to get Gabriel Valdes named president of the Christian Democratic International (a job which a Venezuelan finally got) because he needs his votes. Today he is trying to marshal support to make him president of the Senate. If he does well, he will be seen as "the man" for 1993. He has been grooming for that job for years. He came close to achieving it last year. For this reason, he does not want the nomination to slip through his grasp again.

This is especially true since he saw his chances boosted by the rather heavy, if not severe, punishment of the Frei camp. Genaro Arriagada was excluded from the government, or at least from the jobs he wanted, and there are those who say that this is part of a strategy for breaking up the Frei group. Apparently "El Pelao" [baldy] will remain in the party to set things up for his leader, "and to make sure Zaldivar doesn't have it too easy," according to one source. "Andres will not go to the Senate and leave the party in Genaro's hands," the source added. They are licking their wounds: It was the president of the DC who brought Genaro in to serve as secretary general of the "No" movement, and then he went over to Frei.

Another name that was mentioned last week was that of Guteberg Martinez. He was described as Aylwin's hatchetman in the party. But Martinez will utlimately opt for a post on the executive board, as vice president, for example. Aside from his youth, the fact that he took second place after Alberto Espina also had an impact. Thus, the head of the DC delegation is Carlos Dupre, although "Gute" is still slugging it out with Eduardo Cerda, Dupre himself, and Mario Hamuy to see who will lead the Chamber of Deputies. They have agreed that the four of them will decide who gets the job, and they will not reveal their decision to anyone else so that it cannot be vetoed ahead of time. According to one source, Dupre controls 7 deputies, Martinez 11, the Freists 8, and the renovators 9. Even so, if things remain the way they are, the factionalism will not be too evident in Congress.

But these appointments to the executive board will finally have to pass through the sieve of the negotiations with National Renewal [RN]. It is rumored that in the lower house, the negotiators will agree to allow the DC to chair the executive board, accompanied by a Radical or Social Democratic vice president and a Socialist one. In exchange for this concession, Jarpa would be named president of the Senate, accompanied by another Christian Democrat as vice president. Another possible solution proposed by National Renewal would be to increase to two the number of vice presidencies in the Senate to allow for more negotiating possibilities.

There are those who contend, however, that one of the two vice presidencies of the Chamber of Deputies should go to a representative of the Democracy and Progress pact. That is, as long as Zaldivar does not insist that Valdes be the head of the Senate.

Finally, one person who would be acceptable to some people as secretary general of the party is Patricio Santa Maria. Many were impressed with the particular affection with which Patricio Aylwin greeted him at the recent Council. A little boost? Aylwin's intention is not to involve himself in this matter at all, as he himself has said.

What has not yet been resolved is whether those who have major jobs in the government can have them in the party as well. In any case, the situation promises to be quite different from that of last summer: less turbulent. There will be no election of delegates or of a precandidate at this Council (at least not openly), nor will there be any fighting over deputations. "We are almost boring," laughs a party leader. Everything is very laid back. In short, a comrade who is falling to sleep....

Colombia

M-19 Present Weapons to IS Special Commission

PA0803220790 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2126 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] Bogota, 8 Mar (EFE)—The 19 April Movement (M-19), one of the main Colombian guerrilla organizations, today presented their weapons to a Socialist International (IS) special commission at the M-19 camp located in the mountains of southwestern Colombia. The delivery began at 1030 local time (1530 GMT) and proceeded for a few hours, before the press was permitted access to the camp.

The delivery of the weapons, with which the guerrilla group has fought during the past 16 years, took place two days before the political pact, or the definitive peace agreement, between the M-19 and Colombian Government of President Virgilio Barco's is to be signed.

Before surrendering their weapons, the M-19 guerrillas shot them into the air for the last time. Then they gave their weapons to their top leader, Carlos Pizarro, who delivered them to the IS commission, made up of Venezuelan, Swiss, British, and Finnish military personnel.

The IS commission, a presidential representative, 600 M-19 members, and over 200 local and foreign reporters witnessed the weapon delivery ceremony at Peace Village in Santo Domingo, Cauca Department, 400 km southwest of Bogota.

Guerrilla Activity, Clashes Continue

PA0803172790 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Report by Oscar Galvis]

[Text] Three departments and two intendances have recently been the targets of guerrilla violence, and the electoral process is still uncertain in several of these zones. Antioquia, Cordoba, and Cesar Departments, and the Putumayo and Arauca Intendances have been the focus of the latest guerrilla raids.

The first two months of 1990 have become the most violent in recent years. During January and February, 85 Armed Forces members were killed in various clashes; 359 civilians were assassinated; 152 kidnappings were perpetrated; 11 ambushes were carried out; nine urban areas were attacked; 86 terrorist actions were carried out; and 87 guerrillas members were killed and 731 were captured.

The violent incidents in Putumayo include the assassinations of Judge Carmen Elisa Rojas and three policemen; one soldier was killed in a clash with the ELN [Army of National Liberation] in Segovia, Antioquia Department; a FAC [Colombian Air Force] helicopter in which General Rodolfo Clavijo travels was fired upon in the area of Uraba. One of the helicopter's pilots was wounded in the attack.

In addition, the mayor of Tibu was kidnapped a few hours ago, thus raising to four the number of mayors in the subversive groups' hands. Social Conservative Deputy Celina Ossa de Guzman was kidnapped in Medellin; one deputy and one journalist were kidnapped in Aguachica, Cesar Department; and the Agrarian Board branch's manager was kidnapped in San Vicente de Chucuri.

The violence unleashed against Patriotic Union [UP] members has continued. Three of its militants were assassinated on 2 March in Unguia, Choco Department, thus bringing the number of murdered UP members to 71. These assassinations, and that of the Apartado mayor, have resulted in protests from the UP and the National Commission for Guarantees. In the wake of this violence, Security Council members decided to increase the Armed Forces' presence in the area.

Meanwhile, fierce fighting between the Army and the guerrilla forces is currently under way in the zone of Colombia, Huila Department.

DAS Reports Presence of 'Mercenaries'

PA0803173290 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] General Miguel Maza Marquez yesterday revealed terrible news to the Security Council, which was meeting in Monteria. Gen. Maza gave a special report revealing an increase in mercenary actions [words indistinct] the nation. The information gathered by the DAS [Administrative Department of Security] explains the sudden increase in attacks on Patriotic Union [UP] leaders [words indistinct] acts of violence.

The DAS director said: Mercenaries and hired assassins are back. Gen. Maza Marquez revealed in a confidential report that, according to intelligence reports, (Brian Dave Tompkins) and (Peter Stuart MacAllis) recently entered the country. (Brian Dave Tompkins) illegally entered the country three times between July and September 1988. He is a former member of the UK's Special Army Service. (Peter Stuart MacAllis) entered the country in January 1989 and left on 15 February 1989. He is also a former member of the UK's Special Army Service. The two mercenaries were in charge of an

unsuccessful operation to kill Pablo Escobar, according to an article published by THE SUNDAY TIMES in London.

The same DAS report reveals the appointment of (Henry Perez) as the successor of Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha [El Mexicano] in the Medellin cartel's military leadership. According to the DAS report, he is a Magdalena Medio landowner and head of the entire narcoterrorist organization in that region. An arrest warrant has been issued for him as the mastermind of peasant massacres in Honduras and La Negra, two farms in Uraba, Antioquia Department. He and El Mexicano hired Israeli and British mercenaries to train bodyguards and patrol guards.

The DAS has discovered a link between the murders of 73 UP members in the last 58 days and the return of the mercenaries and hired assassins.

Police Report Number of Kidnapped Now at 294

PA0803172690 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1214 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] Bogota—A National Police report indicates that, with the kidnapping of businessman Fernando Hernandez in southern Medellin yesterday, the number of citizens currently in the hands of kidnappers has risen to 294.

The report says that in the past few hours, Oil and Grease Factory President German Castillo Ramirez and his partner Hernando Sorno Cardenas were kidnapped while in their car in an area between Zabaletas and Envigado municipalities. Rancher Myriam Esperanza Avril de Daza has also been kidnapped in Casacara District, Codazzi municipality.

Official and secret organizations reported yesterday that alleged Camilist Union - National Liberation Army [UC - ELN] members kidnapped Edgar Quintero Bravo, liberal candidate for mayor of Pailitas, yesterday. The subversives entered the political leader's home and took him by force.

The UC - ELN has also kidnapped Pailitas Mayor Alfonso Dario Toro and Jose Casadiego Yanzy, another Liberal Party candidate for this post. It was also reported yesterday that Carlos Enrique Munoz, Conservative Party leader and candidate for councilman, mysteriously disappeared on 26 February.

Ecuador

* Government's Reactivation Strategy Criticized

90ET0124A Quito HOY in Spanish 11 Jan 90 p 2A

[Article by Gonzalo Maldonado Alban: "Reactivation—A Doubtful Subject"]

[Text] Dr Oswaldo Davila, former secretary general of Conade [National Council for Development] and an economic analyst, commented: "Now that the government has announced the economic growth goals for 1990, it would be more appropriate to talk about an economic recovery process than a reactivation process."

According to Davila, the target of 3.5-percent growth in the GDP this year "is a modest goal, considering the fact that the population growth rate is 2.85 percent."

He added: "The same situation holds true for inflation, the average figure for which was 78 percent in 1989, and not 54 percent, as government sources claimed. That figure (54 percent) merely compares the December 1988 inflation with that of December 1989, without taking into account the inflationary peaks that occurred during March and April of the previous year."

In this context, Dr Davila concludes that attaining an inflation rate of 25 percent "is a utopian goal; at best, it might reach 40 or 45 percent for annual inflation during 1990."

The former secretary general of Conade also claimed that if a strong impetus is not given to public works programs, which will be the main source for absorbing unskilled labor during 1990, "the overt unemployment rate, currently 14 percent, will be impossible to reduce despite the programs for granting credit to microbusinesses."

According to Oswaldo Davila, the economic recovery process (as he has termed it) should be carried out on the basis of devising two fundamental policies: a clear-cut policy for agricultural production and marketing that will give an incentive to production for domestic consumption, and an industrialization policy calling for balance between the industries for the domestic market and those for export.

Davila remarked: "These policies will have to be accompanied by a short-, medium-, and long-term credit strategy that will make the supply of funds for the aforementioned sectors flexible."

Davila maintained that the gradualist method of raising the exchange rate will not have total continuity during 1990, "because there will be times when the monetary authorities will have to approve macrodevaluations of the exchange rate in order to recover from the setbacks caused by the loss of Ecuador's competitiveness in exports." Oswaldo Davila stressed: "For this reason, I believe that the gradualist policy for the exchange rate has touched bottom."

The economic analyst said that the growth in the GDP for 1990 would depend largely on the development in Ecuador's external sector (traditional and nontraditional oil exports). He made the following statement in this regard:

"Although oil prices have shown a slight gain during recent months, I think that their trend will be downward. And, since the production volumes will not change, I

think that Ecuador will only be able to accrue a $200-million increase in its income. That figure cannot offset the loss of income due to the break in the Coffee Convention, and the losses in shrimp exports, which are currently experiencing larva procurement problems."

* Borja's Tactics for Elections Viewed

90ET0128A Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 26 Jan 90 p 4

[Editorial by Alejandro Carrion: "A Strong Electoral Platform"]

[Text] President Rodrigo Borja realizes how harmful an adverse legislative majority is for a government, and is determined that this disaster will not befall his. The occasion on which that misfortune could occur for him is near: Midterm elections are set for June of this year. In order to emerge victorious he has named as campaign chief the person whom he considers best qualified in his party: Pedro Saad Herreria, who is already working, and one can discern some features of his electoral platform which, unquestionably, deserves the adjective "strong."

The president believes that, insofar as elections are concerned, Ecuador's population is divided into three groups: one, his supporters; another, supporters of former President Febres Cordero; and another, those who are neither backers of his government nor of the previous government. He is attempting to attract the latter group of citizens and put it on the side of the radical left. For this reason, the main features of his platform are of interest.

That electorate is presumed to be anti-imperialist: To make it decide in his favor, a policy toward Panama has been devised that is staunchly opposed to the current situation in that country. Ill will has also been demonstrated toward the visit by Vice President Quayle of the United States. And those voters are presumed to be intensely antioligarchical: Hence, in order to attract them, a sudden dispute has been sought with business owners, based on the business owners = oligarchs equation.

And since that entire electorate is presumed to be anti-Febres Cordero, a warrant has been issued for the provisional arrest of the former president in a decision with exclusively political motives which was expected to be used at present. It is a decision in which there is no crime to prosecute: The fact that a president should hire a foreign specialist to devise a plan for the protection of individuals exercising power and of national buildings is no crime. The fact that the Central Bank should be requested to cooperate in paying for this consulting work is no crime. The decision and the arrest warrant ordered in it have only one goal: to encourage the portion of the electorate that is anti-Febres Cordero to vote for the ID [Democratic Left] slates.

Now then, in this action the president is risking his luck with a heavy wager. We should remember that much of the electorate does not act intellectually or ideologically, but rather emotionally. And then it takes a position on the side of the persecuted. If this occurs, the government's fate is sealed: The majority will be for the opposition. We are not sure whether this will happen, but we admit that it is quite likely. The die is cast; what has been done is irreversible.

The president has reason to be concerned: Many things done to continue collecting revenue are unpopular, and could influence the elections. If propaganda is made with the slogan "don't vote for those who raise gasoline prices," or "don't vote for those who raise bread prices," perhaps much of the vote will go to the opposition. Logically, the hike in gasoline prices should have been made after June. Mr Saad was mistaken not to oppose their being raised now. Bread should have been subsidized again; that would have given a big boost to the government party slate. However, it was chosen to raise the price. Mr Saad also made a mistake here, in not putting up opposition, and expecting the anti-imperialist policy, the antioligarchy attitude, and, particularly, the prosecution of Febres Cordero to prove sufficient, and divert attention from the new gasoline and bread prices.

In any event, we can now discern the strong platform, and clearly distinguish its special features.

* Political Structural Problems Viewed

90ET0135A Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 12 Feb 90 p 5

[Editorial by Fabian Corral B.: "The Crisis of the Parties"]

[Text] The crisis besetting the Popular Democracy Party attests to the fact that political parties are not rational, consistent structures which, through a monopoly on power, would convert "political scheming" into "politics," and eliminate the electioneering and political boss rule that has affected the country since its distant independence.

The Law on Parties arose from an erroneous supposition that the evils in politics are not flaws in the parties, but rather in the "others": the independents and old political leaders. Hence, a system was proposed and imposed establishing the political groups as the only ones qualified to govern, elect, disagree, and agree. But the truth is otherwise: The consecutive crises in the parties demonstrate that the evils of politics are structural problems of an immature society, lacking suitable institutions and appropriate channels for self-expression. Paradoxically, the implementation of the Laws on Parties and Elections has made it possible for one undeniable fact to surface: the parties are institutions in which all the traditional problems of Ecuadorean politics are reproduced. They contain not only the impartiality and ideological purity represented by the Constitution of 1979; rather, they also contain political boss rule, patronage, militarism, and, in particular, a deep-seated individualism. The latter explains the fact that, periodically, there is a public

airing of the most varied and spectacular disputes which weaken the incipient partisan structures and, at times, hopelessly divide those groups.

The fact that there are 17 political parties in Ecuador proves the irrationality of our institutions, because there are no more than three or four ideologies in the world capable of being articulated in political doctrines. Therefore, what we have is a personalist dispersion of electoral associations and clubs that do not reflect the presumed ideological consistency that would lend some sense to a system espousing the "political apartheid" of independent citizens. The practice of alternation and elective democracy does not exist in those groups either. On the contrary, the party system has, in fact, established the monopoly of immutable, perpetual boards of directors that control the country's destiny, because they are, after all, the ones electing the rulers.

Nevertheless, the most serious aspect lies in the fact that the party system lacks social legitimacy. Its capacity to command stems from laws divorced from reality. These laws were imposed by a plebiscite concocted by the last military dictatorship and ratified by the recent referendum in which the country voted on a political blunder of the Social Christian government and a gigantic scheme staged by its opponents. The victory of the "no" was the victory of disinformation. Jean Francois Revel wrote in "Useless Knowledge" that: "The first of all the forces directing the world is the lie"; and this statement fittingly describes that painful episode in our recent history.

It could be claimed that the years of the last try at democracy have been a lost decade for the party system. After such a long period of exercise for the monopoly of power and political opinion, the results should by now have been assessed, and the maturity, equanimity, and exemplarity of party leaders in public life should have made their appearance. Unfortunately, the achievements are otherwise: Conflicts abound, and the parties have proven unable to exercise a leadership that would restore the citizens' faith in "politics" and "politicians," who are still inspiring distrust and causing disappointment.

Civic spirit continues to be an emotion impossible to blend with the dispassionate nature of electoral calculation. Democracy is being supported with difficulty, despite the irreconcilable, perpetual dispute bordering on political hatred which seeks, above all, the exercise of power.

* Cordero, Bucaram Candidacies Analyzed

* Election Law Interpreted

90ET0136A Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 11 Feb 90 p 3

[Text] Elections, politics, and law: a trilogy that generates controversy before, during, and after an electoral process.

Almost always, as elections approach, interpretations of the law have appeared among different political sectors, and even among the candidates themselves, in order to question the "ground-rules."

Although the many amendments that the present Election Law has undergone during the 12 years that it has been in effect have made it possible to correct mistakes and fill existing gaps, they have also given rise to criticism of various kinds that has not always been well-intentioned.

At present, on the eve of the convocation of elections this coming June, political speculation has again been generated upon the announcement of the names of certain figures as potential candidates.

Included among the names attracting the citizens' attention is that of the former mayor of Guayaquil, Abdala Bucaram, who, it is claimed, will be the PRE [Ecuadorean Roldosista Party] candidate heading the list of deputies representing Guayas Province.

There is an arrest warrant against the Roldosista leader issued by the president of the Guayaquil Superior Court for certain irregularities charged by the Comptroller's Office, relating to his administration as head of the principal port's city hall.

Could Bucaram be a candidate under these circumstances?

Another example is that of former President Leon Febres Cordero. Up until the summons to a plenary suit in the case involving the $150,000, it was being commented that the former chief executive would head the list of Social Christian Party candidates for deputy representing Guayas.

There is also a warrant for preventive arrest hovering over Febres Cordero, issued by the judge in the case, who happens to be the president of the Supreme Court of Justice. There is an intervening appeal (on the part of Febres Cordero), and other acquittals are being made by the judge for lack of evidence.

The case is unquestionably having political effects but, in the event that the former president should decide to participate as a candidate in the June elections, would he be legally qualified?

The Election Law stipulates in Article 47, paragraph b, the requirements for being a member of the National Congress. Among them, it cites the following: He must be an Ecuadorean invested with citizenship rights, be at least 25 years old at the time of the election, and be affiliated with one of the legally recognized parties.

It also specifies those who may not be candidates for provincial and national deputies. Among them it cites the president and vice president of the Republic, the president of the Supreme Court of Justice, the ministers, the comptroller, and public employees earning salaries

from the national treasury, except for university professors, as not being qualified as candidates for the legislature.

No chapter of the law prohibits citizens subject to criminal procedure, even with an arrest warrant, whatever the complaint may be, from participating as candidates for provincial deputy or any other popularly elected office.

In this instance, the only thing that the people would censure is the ethics of the candidates.

The law, with its countless amendments, does not govern cases such as that of former President Febres Cordero and PRE leader Abdala Bucaram, who have been subjected to criminal procedure for embezzlement. Both are qualified to participate in the June elections. The law does not prohibit it, although it will be incumbent on the provincial electoral courts and, in the last instance, on the Supreme Electoral Court, to qualify the candidacies based on a legal mandate.

Nevertheless, it is expected that, if their candidacies should become effective, many parties will impugn them.

When this phase has been completed, if Febres Cordero and Abdala Bucaram are criminally convicted after they have been voted into office in the June elections, they could could lose their posts.

Decisions emanating from the judicial authorities against certain political figures are always considered political and an attempt to politically disqualify potential political foes of the government currently in office.

Under these circumstances, the electoral contest will undoubtedly be directed toward judging the moral capacity of the candidates and of the government itself.

* Lawyer States Opinion

90ET0136B Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 11 Feb 90 p 3

[Text] Jurist Enrique Echeverria has claimed that the writ of summons to plenary proceedings operates exclusively for citizens who are to be registered in the electoral lists, and by no means disqualifies candidates for provincial deputy.

It is clear that the writ of summons to plenary proceedings, which is an intermediate remedy between the beginning of the trial and the convicting verdict, does not operate constitutionally as a prohibition to disqualify a candidacy for any popularly elected office.

According to the Election Law, the following are prohibited from participating as candidates for provincial deputy: the president and vice president of the Republic, the president of the Supreme Court of Justice, the state ministers, the superintendents of banks and companies, public employees, and those whose citizenship rights have been suspended.

Echeverria explained that the mere criminal procedure does not suspend citizenship rights nor cause their loss. In the Constitution of 1946, Article 19 stated that citizenship rights were suspended by self-motivation; in other words, the decision issued by a judge of criminal proceedings once the indictment has been completed and sufficient grounds are found to try the accused. Hence, such an individual could not be a candidate for any popularly elected office.

The present Election Law cites the writ of summons to plenary proceedings only in the chapter relating to electoral lists. It states that "those against whom a writ of summons to plenary proceedings has been issued" cannot be registered in the electoral lists "until the trial has ended." Those sentenced to prison may not be enrolled either.

* Supreme Electoral Court View

90ET0136C Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 11 Feb 90 p 3

[Text] According to the former member of the Supreme Electoral Court, Carlos Silva, there is no legal prohibition to prevent former President Leon Febres Cordero and the former mayor of Guayaquil, Abdala Bucaram, from participating as candidates for deputy, unless there is an intervening convicting verdict.

He recalled the more recent precedent when Abdala Bucaram was a candidate for the presidency of the Republic in the 1988 elections, even though a criminal suit had been initiated against him for embezzlement. The warrant for his arrest was even revoked, and he returned from his self-imposed exile, participating as a candidate for the chief executive's office.

Based on this analysis, Febres Cordero would be in the same situation: By a decision handed down by the president of the Supreme Court of Justice he has been summoned to a plenary suit in the matter of the $150,000 donated by the Central Bank during the previous government.

So long as there is no resolution of the appeal filed by the former president, revoking or confirming the writ of summons to a plenary proceeding, Febres Cordero is not disqualified for participating as a candidate for provincial deputy if he should so decide.

Silva maintains that the mere criminal procedure does not prohibit participation as a candidate for any of the popularly elected offices.

He noted that the Election Law does not ban those subjected to criminal procedures from participating as candidates. Nevertheless, he claimed that the ban is decided on only when they are summoned to a plenary suit because of indications of acts that could be punishable by the Penal Code.

He stressed that if the writ of summons to a plenary proceeding is not confirmed for either of the two (Febres

Cordero and Bucaram), they may participate as candidates for any popularly elected office.

Paraguay

Colorado Chairman Chaves Withdraws Resignation

PY0803160690 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 8 Mar 90 p 2

[Excerpt] Dr. Juan Ramon Chaves surprised the members of the Colorado Party Executive Board again when he withdrew his resignation of the party chairmanship and the situation returned to as it was before he decided to tender his resignation. In the tense and anxious atmosphere resulting from the attitude of Dr. Chaves, who ignored Miguel Angel Gonzalez Casabianca's motion to change the order of the day to include an analysis and consideration of the resignation note that Dr. Chaves had tendered to the Colorado Party members, the board attempted to continue the session. Nonetheless, the disorder in the room and the shouts of the cheering groups that were attending the meeting made it impossible to understand what the members of the democratic faction were saying. The members of the democratic faction decided to leave the meeting; the orthodox faction therefore had no quorum to vote on the motions. The members of the democratic faction have reported that they will summon a special meeting of the executive board to discuss Chaves' resignation and elect a new chairman. [passage omitted]

Peru

Garcia on Debt Lawsuit, Transfer of Funds

PY0803205190 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Regarding the lawsuit filed by U.S. creditor banks, President Garcia said the banks' attempt to collect the debt is not only unfair but also impossible. The president said the debt should be reduced by 50 percent or more. President Garcia also said that the transfer of Peruvian funds from U.S. banks to Swiss banks is a precaution against eventual problems.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] It is said that the U.S., Japanese, and French banks that filed the lawsuit against the country can still hold Peruvian assets in garnishment.

[Garcia] That is not so. A bank spokesman has told UPI News Agency that the lawsuit does not address the real problem; that is, it does not force Peru to pay. They are only trying to act before the statute of limitations takes effect; that is, before six years pass without payment. It would have been a great boom for Peru had the statute of limitations gone into effect. [passage omitted]

We have to reiterate something that everyone knows. Peru cannot pay this gigantic debt. No Latin American country should pay the amounts that they want us to pay today. Banks should reduce the debt. The debts have already grown too much, due to interest alone. Realistically, it should be reduced by 50 percent or more. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] The economy minister has said that Peru has transferred money from New York to Switzerland.

[Garcia] He has released the news, I know, but it is better to prevent than regret. I repeat that any legal action will be answered by our lawyers. Besides, banks know it is impossible to collect from someone who does not have the resources to pay. I regret that, instead of proposing an alternative, banks continue trying to collect the entire debt. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Correction to Garcia Comments on Lawsuit

WA0803190290

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Garcia Comments on Creditor Banks' Lawsuit," published in the 6 March Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 38:

Column two, first paragraph, second sentence, make read: ...loans, Garcia added. (new paragraph) [Begin recording] [Reporter] Mr. President, what can you tell us about the creditors' lawsuit?" (new graf) [Garcia] This news should ... (supplying missing words)

Larco Cox on Inauguration Trips, Panama Incident

PY0803183690 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Guillermo Larco Cox has deplored and condemned the aggression against our embassy [as heard] in Panama. Peru has asked Panama to guarantee the safety of our ambassador and embassy employees.

[Begin recording] [Larco Cox] The president will depart for Chile on 11 March. I will leave earlier to attend the accreditation ceremony for Chilean President Augusto Pinochet, thereby fulfilling our protocol requirements. The president will arrive in time to congratulate President Aylwin, and he will be the first to salute the new president. The Peruvian Foreign Ministry registered the president's visit immediately after the inauguration program was released. Peru is thus earning an important honor and distinction, more so because it is the first time that an incumbent Peruvian president will visit Chile. This attitude—along with the visit to Ecuador last December—will help bring an end to the myths hindering our relations with these countries; myths that state that a president should not visit a country with which Peru has had conflicts.

[Reporter] What about the trip to Brazil?

[Larco Cox] It will take place immediately after the trip to Chile. The president has a meeting scheduled with President Aylwin on 13 March, and we will go to Brazil after that meeting.

[Reporter] What will you discuss in Brazil?

[Larco Cox] We will review bilateral issues. The joint commissions have been working hard in their respective areas. We want to leave the preliminary drafts, of the agreements we will sign and the framework and details of our activities in Chile and Brazil, as ready as possible.

[Reporter] How many days will you be out of the country?

[Larco Cox] Until 16 March. Our schedule in Brazil ends on this date.

[Reporter] What about the aggression against our embassy in Panama?

[Larco Cox] The residence has been damaged. More importantly, however, we did anticipate the incident and requested protection from the forces of order. Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon and Foreign Minister Linares called us immediately after the incident to condemn the attack. We released a communique yesterday protesting and deploring the circumstances surrounding the aggression. We have also sent a note to the Panamanian Foreign Ministry on which I am not going to comment. I will only say that in it we reiterated our protest, particularly since we had requested protection. [end recording]

Five Shining Path Terrorists Die in Armed Clash

PY0803213090 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2322 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] Lima, 7 Mar (EFE)—The National Police Command reported in Lima today that five Shining Path terrorists died in an armed clash with police the Mazamari district of the Peruvian jungle.

The source said that the clash occurred on the night of 5 March when policemen spotted a group of guerrillas apparently planning to attack the town of San Martin de Pangoa on the border with Mazamari in Junin Department.

The police also reported that the dead terrorists, including one woman, had weapons that had previously been stolen from security force members who were killed by Shining Path terrorists in areas of the Peruvian jungle.

Today several unidentified people killed National Police Captain Aristides Huertas Sanchez who one week ago returned to Lima from the Andean province of Ayacucho, the birthplace of the Shining Path terrorist organization.

Huertas was riddled with bullets approximately 500 meters from a National Police precinct in the crowded neighborhood of San Martin de Porres in Lima.

The source concluded that at least 700 people, among them 27 security forces personnel, have died so far this year in the armed struggle.

* Political Analyst Discusses Left's Future

90ET0109C Lima EQUIS X in Spanish 22 Jan 90 pp 29-30, 32

[Interview with political analyst Roberto Tronco by Juan Carlos Torres: "The Left Should Rethink Its Program"; place and date not given; first two paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] The socialist left, divided between the MIS [not further expanded] and the IU [United Left] today, cannot continue to cling to the Marxist-Leninist concepts of the past, which have failed throughout the world. Instead it must reform its concepts and reconcile socialism with democracy, equality, and freedom.

The left wing must be aware that it must redraft its government programs, setting aside ideas which are now anachronisms, and bringing itself up to date with the current reality. This is the thesis maintained by political analyst Roberto Tronco in this interview, in which he analyzes the situation of the leftist movements in the country. The following is an account of the interview.

[EQUIS X] What, in your view, are the deep-seated causes of the current division of the left wing?

[Tronco] It is my opinion that the causes which led the left wing to submit two election slates are basically political and organic. They are political in the sense of different criteria as to how, for example, to deal with the problem of terrorism. The radical bloc, which includes the PUM [Mariateguist Unified Party], the UNIR [National Union of the Revolutionary Left], and the PC [Communist Party], maintains the view that all forms of political struggle, including the military path, should be used to win power. This group remains within the boundaries of an orthodox Leninist concept. In the Barrantes bloc, or socialist left, there has been an advance toward acceptance of or rapprochement with the democratic system as a condition for winning power. Therefore, this group will reject the use of political violence in order to win government power, and will approach it as a democratic process. Secondly, there is a difference in the view of what the political situation of the country is. On the radical side, the assessment is that there is a revolutionary situation, and that it justifies preparation of the conditions for an uprising, an insurrection. These positions were voted down at the congress of the United Left held in Huampani, in a motion put forward by the socialist left bloc. But there was a problem there, for although it is true that the radical positions were defeated on the level of political discussion, they won out on the organic level. They controlled the National Leadership Committee, and they modified the agreements. These are the factors, to my way of thinking, which led to the division of the leftist sector.

[EQUIS X] In your opinion, do the ideological and political differences which separate and divide the leftist groups justify their failure to join together to support a single presidential candidate?

[Tronco] In my opinion, the divisions within the left are proper to the extent that what the socialist left must do is to establish the proper identity of socialism in democracy, openly setting forth self-criticism about what the real existing nature of socialism has been, about the errors derived not only from Stalin, but from Lenin himself, Marx himself. Thus, in my view, it was and is correct for Barrantes to differentiate himself from the United Left. Rather, there have been some shortcomings in Barrantes himself. He says that socialism is not incompatible with democracy, but this is not enough. I believe that socialism is not only compatible with democracy, but with freedom, political liberty, and economic liberty as well. For example, what is happening in the countries in the East characterized by real existing socialism is that democratic revolutions are occurring, with the banner of freedom and democracy being raised. The supporters of the socialist left, then, must be firm in stating that they support this struggle for political and economic freedom and for democracy. And when I say political and economic freedom, I mean that it is not enough for the citizen to have political rights derived from the Constitution. The citizens must also have the right to progress, to economic development. Therefore the state must guarantee them this right to do their work freely.

[EQUIS X] How do you think that it would be possible at this point to counteract the process in which the conservative right wing might be reestablished in power, through a possible electoral triumph for Fredemo [Democratic Front] and Mario Vargas Llosa?

[Tronco] There must be, on the part of the left wing, a change in strategy and program. What are the political factors which made the resurgence of the right wing which began in 1987 possible? In 1985, the right wing, in terms of Popular Action and the PPC [Popular Christian Party], had one of the lowest voting totals, and in 1983 Bedoya ran as a candidate for the office of mayor of Lima with the United Right, and he lost to Castillo and Barrantes. What then are the factors which account for the fact that the right wing is now showing overwhelming strength, which according to the polls, exceeds 50 percent of the votes? Basically, it is the fact that the right wing is taking up the values and aspirations of the vast majority. For example, the assertion that the Peruvian state, instead of helping or aiding the popular sectors, has excluded and trampled upon them is correct. And the banner of freedom is being raised, and the right of all Peruvians to have access to property, based on the idea or concept of a country of owners, is being advocated. This is proper, because there is a need for the reorganization of the Peruvian state, which is bureaucratic, centralizing, and controlling. It is a state which is out of tune with the political and economic reality in the country. And on the other hand, the leftist sectors, such as APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] and the socialist left, continue to advance their programs emphasizing the need to redistribute the wealth, to have a strong, controlling state which will guarantee this redistribution of the wealth. In my opinion, this type of leftist program is already seen as obsolete by the Peruvian people, precisely because of the experience of what is happening throughout the world, wherein there is obviously progress in the programs. In other words, it is necessary to do away with everything in the programs for centralized planning, for giving the state an excessively large role. All of the programs with economic policies for redistribution of a populist nature—all of these types of programs have now become outdated, and they no longer represent the needs of the countries or the popular sectors. The only way, then, that there can be a resurgence of the leftist movements is if they reformulate their government programs. In these programs, they must incorporate reforms of the state, on an integral basis, including debureaucratization, privatization, decentralization, and democratization. For democracy in Peru is not an institutional system, but basically a "blank check" given to the winning party by the citizens every 5 years so that in the name of the people, it can govern and can do what it wants. And on the other hand, the left-wing movements must rally all of the Peruvian people around a national development project.

[EQUIS X] What should be the main guidelines and the principal proposals in an alternative economic program proposed by the left, in view of the current hyperinflation and recession crisis?

[Tronco] In the economic field, the left wing must be conscientious and realistic in drafting economic policies which instead of planning or designing programs for the redistribution of poverty, will serve basically to promote and develop production in the branches of agriculture, industry, and agroindustry, so that there will be economic reactivation and jobs will be generated.

[EQUIS X] What repercussions will the political revolution which is currently sweeping all of Eastern Europe and which, with perestroyka, is also occurring within the Soviet Union have on the Peruvian left wing?

[Tronco] Perestroyka is a revolution within these so-called socialist systems which is indicating precisely that socialism is not a system, but a philosophy which allows men to make a choice, to choose an identity or a position in society—the recognition of the need for economic justice. What has happened in the countries in the East is precisely the abandonment of socialism as an all-powerful system for deciding everything, in order to affirm more democratic systems, in which the struggle for democracy and freedom will be incorporated, while solidarity will be maintained. In other words, there is no renunciation of solidarity. What is being done is to democratize socialism, and obviously, there are going to be repercussions in the Peruvian left wing, since this is already true for the socialist left. And it is my impression that there will not only be repercussions here in the

Peruvian left wing, but in Cuba as well. In the case of Nicaragua, there will sooner or later be revolutionary democratic processes which will attempt to change the somewhat dictatorial way of doing things.

[EQUIS X] What are the reasons for the astonishing silence on the subject of the collapse of Stalinist communism being maintained by all of the leftist groups, especially the Marxist ones, and even the presidential candidates Alfonso Barrantes and Henry Pease?

[Tronco] Where the IU is concerned, there has indeed been a somewhat lukewarm statement, and Barrantes has made a declaration which, it must be admitted, is inconsistent. What the left wing should do is go to the Berlin Wall. Its members must demonstrate that the socialist left represents precisely the democratic positions maintained by Hungary and East Germany, because except for the violent revolution in Romania, the others have been democratic revolutions.

[EQUIS X] What is your personal position in the discussion which has begun in our country about the counterposition of liberalism and socialism?

[Tronco] At its beginning, socialism emerged as a counterposition of absolutist models, and it was the most authentic philosophy of liberalism. Later, this socialism, which incorporated democracy and opposed the absolutist states, was transformed into a narrow, closed, universal ideology. In my view, what the struggle of the peoples in the East is demonstrating now is precisely the rediscovery of the nature of that original socialism, along with the liberalism which embodies the most advanced aspects of what mankind is. I do not believe that there is a contradiction between social justice and the right of men to advance economically. I believe that the socialist systems must renew themselves in order to allow the citizens their right to economic development. And what a socialist system must guarantee is that this right is enjoyed not just by some, but by all.

[Box, p 32] Terrorism

The national agreement is a need which cannot be postponed, political analyst Roberto Tronco maintains. And he believes that the failure to accept this agreement is one of the errors made by Mario Vargas Llosa. For the national agreement is needed for a number of reasons, because of the depth of the economic crisis, but more basically because of the situation of terrorist violence which exists in the country. It is not possible, he says, to move this country forward if there is no commitment by the productive forces, on the one hand, that is to say by the workers and employees, to draft programs for an economic solution to the crisis. Secondly, a commitment to deal with terrorism is needed from the political forces, since it cannot be dealt with by a single party, nor by the Armed Forces alone. Terrorism must be dealt with by the state, with a united civil society. And what the national agreement seeks to achieve is concrete commitments with regard to the way in which terrorism, for which there is no justification, should be challenged. And here Tronco disagrees with the sociologists and politicians who basically justify terrorism by saying that it is the product of the structural crisis involving hunger and poverty and structural violence. He does not deny the existence of these problems, but says that terrorism makes use of these factors to justify a proposal which is profoundly reactionary in its program content, because it rejects the nation, democracy, freedom. And precisely because it rejects these values, it tends to lead to violent responses, as in the case of the slaughter of the poor peasants on the pretext that they were serving the reactionaries, or the destruction of the training centers which were supporting production. Terrorism is a reactionary program which turns the country backward instead of helping it to advance. Therefore, the political forces must commit themselves to the struggle against terrorism. In connection with this struggle, Tronco opposes leaving it to the peasant patrols to organize and challenge terrorism, because as he sees it, this means that the political forces, which use the peasant patrols as cannon fodder, are washing their hands of the problem. The political forces must organize their members to challenge terrorism, heading this struggle and giving political support to the Armed Forces.

* Barrantes Discusses Campaign, United Left

90ET0109A Lima CARETAS in Spanish
22 Jan 90 pp 28-29, 86

[Interview with presidential candidate Alfonso Barrantes Lingan by Luis Pasara: "Barrantes Opens Up"; place and date not given; first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] In this interview with a confessional tone, Alfonso Barrantes admits that he feels responsible for the division in the United Left (IU), and he attributes it to a great extent to his slow and doubtful attitude. However, he refers, in his own favor, to the ideological crisis in the leftist movements throughout the world. He approves of Gorbachev's perestroyka, but continues to justify Castro. He refuses to separate himself from the United Left as a whole, preferring to reserve his attack for the extremist sector alone. He accuses Mario Vargas Llosa of arrogance, although he admits that he might win the first round, without achieving 50 percent. He is relying on his municipal administration, which he regards as an example of democratic pluralism, and suggests that on the second round, he will win with the support of the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] and leftist base levels.

[CARETAS] Finally, now do you want to be president?

[Barrantes] I have no other choice. I am following this direction after recognizing the resurgence of popular support and sympathy.

[CARETAS] What made you doubt for such a long time?

[Barrantes] The internal problems within the left wing and the two Latin American experiences—that of Popular Unity, in Chile, and that of Democratic and Popular Unity in Bolivia.

[CARETAS] Which failed.

[Barrantes] Indeed. There one could see how a front made up of so many parties among which some major differences existed makes it difficult for a government to last. For this reason, I am concerned about the Aylwin government, which has 17 parties, because when there is a government based on a front, distribution must be based on a party criterion, and not necessarily the interests of the country.

[CARETAS] In the Chilean case, there is an agreement to prohibit the "quota distribution" of political posts, and to give Aylwin authority on a level above the 17 parties.

[Barrantes] That is the solution, and to a certain extent that is my commitment to the Socialist Left. Because otherwise it would mean arriving only to depart again. And what is involved is finding collaborators not only on the left, but in all of the sectors where there are suitable people.

[CARETAS] But in the long process which has finally led to your candidacy, parallel to the process of division in the left wing, has there not been a lack of decision on the part of Alfonso Barrantes?

[Barrantes] In one way, yes. Because I never had a personal program of which the goal was becoming president of the Republic. I began to participate in politics on the basis of the fact that an uncle of mine was an APRA militant. Then, at the university, I continued to participate in politics. But I had become a left-wing figure without having intended to. Perhaps this provoked the ire of those who do have personal programs, and who did not achieve a position of leadership like mine.

[CARETAS] Mario Vargas Llosa also says that he never undertook to become a political figure, but now he has taken up his role in politics with a conviction and a determination which is not to be seen in your own case.

[Barrantes] The fact is that I am very humble. I express the general attitude of someone from the provinces, who lacks the arrogance of those who are famous. Vargas Llosa maintains that he went into politics because the country was experiencing a very serious crisis which we professional politicians could not resolve. Consciously or unconsciously, he is seeking to appear to be the great savior. And he does not realize that in criticizing the professional politicians, he is criticizing men of the stature of Fernando Belaunde or Luis Bedoya.

[CARETAS] Perhaps he does realize....

[Barrantes] If he does, it means that his political connection with them is not very real, and this is dangerous.

[CARETAS] Let us return to the left-wing groups. Do you feel responsible for their schism?

[Barrantes] There can be no doubt that I bear a responsibility, and self-critically, I may perhaps have been very slow to make a decision with regard to those supporting me. With this having happened so close to the election, the effects have been greater than would have been the case earlier.

[CARETAS] Why didn't you adopt a clear attitude during the process of division?

[Barrantes] Because I too find myself in a difficult situation with regard to the events which are occurring throughout the world. I must admit that, to use an analogy, the left wing is passing through a situation as if we were on a bus and had no handrail to cling to. We are used to old dogmas which are now being challenged. The extraordinary thing is that one must turn more forcefully to Mariategui, who with his Marxist affiliation was capable of a critical attitude closely linked with the Peruvian reality. In my opinion, Mariategui continues to be the basic support of the political process.

[CARETAS] For Abimael Guzman, as well.

[Barrantes] Indeed, but I adopt the critical attitude reflectively, while he does so dogmatically and with an arrogance like that of Vargas Llosa.

[CARETAS] In this long and sometimes cloudy process of division on the left, did you not make an error in calculation with regard to the Communist Party [PC], which you hoped to win over?

[Barrantes] But I believe that there are problems within the PC....

[CARETAS] Which have not been resolved....

[Barrantes] And which, it would seem, are growing worse. But I recognize the extreme effort Jorge del Prado has made, and I believe that he was surprised to find that his decision was not supported by some of those who had indicated their agreement with del Prado in their talks with me.

[CARETAS] And are you now convinced that the differences between the two sides are, in the famous phrase of Enrique Bernales, "like oil and water"?

[Barrantes] It seems to me that this statement is greatly exaggerated. Perhaps it could be applied to the difference between the socialist and democratic positions, on the one hand, and the ultraleftist positions, within a part of the IU. This is a minimal part, but it has inexplicably acquired such weight....

[CARETAS] But the differences are clear now?

[Barrantes] Yes, those between the ultraleftists and our position, which is socialist, with an obvious democratic inclination.

[CARETAS] If you emphasize that the differences are with just one sector within the IU, and not with the front as a whole, what are the differences between the presidential candidacy of Henry Pease and your own?

[Barrantes] I understand the problems Henry Pease must have with the ultraleftist sectors. He must adapt his discourse, as I had to do in my time, to the various factions within his sector. And this is the reason for the differences between his statements to the CADE [Annual Conference of Business Executives] and mine. We have set aside the thesis which identified socialism with state control, and we have said that foreign investment is not a problem, but a need. There you have two points on which we have moved apart.

[CARETAS] If these differences really exist, how do you explain the fact that for so long you said that you subscribed to what was agreed at the IU Congress a year ago?

[Barrantes] What I was trying to do was to maintain unity, and then, with the support of other sectors, including the PC, to wage a battle to modify these agreements. One is not always entirely in agreement, but must attempt to perfect the agreements reached. In addition, it must be understood that the membership was not concerned with these subtleties, and what it is seeking, wants, and demands is unity.

[CARETAS] If the leftists have nothing to hang onto, as you have said, how is it that both sectors are still clinging to the antiperestroyka handrail—that is, Fidel Castro?

[Barrantes] In my view, perestroyka truly represents a revolution, one which is attempting to recover the democratic elements found in the socialism of the classic sort, of which a distortion led us to identify democracy with capitalism. The perestroyka Gorbachev is promoting seeks to revitalize socialism, and this helps us to contribute, without reticence or shame, to the consolidation of the democratic processes in our countries. Fidel's position is linked with ours through the course of the whole revolutionary process, which at one time became an example of what could be done in Latin America.

[CARETAS] And which is no longer such an example....

[Barrantes] In the same way that no foreign process can be. Naturally, in that era, it was taken as an example because of the lack of understanding of our own reality, in the belief that revolutionary processes could be mechanically copied. What we adopted as our own were superficial reflections. Now then, a criticism made of Fidel charges that he does not accept perestroyka. I note two things. The first is that proximity to the United States makes it necessary to maintain permanent measures which sometimes prevents the openness which perhaps Fidel himself would like. And the second is that Fidel came to power with the support of the people, and if elections of the Peruvian sort were held at this time, I have no doubt that he would win.

[CARETAS] If this is true, he is stupid not to hold elections.

[Barrantes] He may have some reasons, but there can be no doubt that Fidel is one of the few leaders who continues to retain popular support.

[CARETAS] Let us return to our own elections. What is the leading virtue of Alfonso Barrantes as a candidate?

[Barrantes] The fact that he can assimilate and tries to learn about what the different government-plan teams are working on. When an economic issue is involved which I am not familiar with because I am not an economist, I have no problem in meeting with them, questioning them. And perhaps my virtue is that I can translate it into the language of the people.

[CARETAS] In order to make decisions in the economic realm, something more than a translator's capacity is needed.

[Barrantes] Obviously. One needs the common sense derived from the specific experience one has with the popular sectors, and it suggests the decision which should be adopted to serve their needs.

[CARETAS] But you seem vulnerable in the economic sector, relying too much on your advisers from whom you have more than once diverted questions. Isn't this definitely a weak flank?

[Barrantes] On the contrary. This ensures that I go back to the experts. I might well make an effort and obtain some answers, but I do not want to deceive the people nor to deceive myself. Therefore, I ask that those who know more help me.

[CARETAS] This could mean that in a hypothetical government of yours, the economic decisions would be made by others, and not yourself.

[Barrantes] No, no. I would have to make them. The experts set forth the possibilities, but the decision is political. Especially where inflation and extreme poverty are involved, we have proposed a national agreement, which means bringing together the experts in each party so that they can suggest solutions, and then rallying the politicians and drafting a formula supported by all of us. I believe that it is necessary to move beyond the erroneous belief that the president must decide everything. It is necessary to embark upon the path of democratization, with ever broader participation by the social organizations in the major decisions and the small ones.

[CARETAS] This sounds fine, but it is not the political style of Barrantes.

[Barrantes] You can see the municipal experience there.

[CARETAS] Which we all recognize as positive. But the structure of Alfonso Barrantes' political leadership is like that of a political boss. What is the Socialist Left but a

group of individuals and small parties rallied around a popular leader, which is yourself?

[Barrantes] Well, but despite Barrantes....

[CARETAS] How can you say "despite"? You were the axis!

[Barrantes] Agreed, but this is because the people generously give me a support and a sympathy which makes me a leader. Naturally, that is how a movement begins, and leaders are an indispensable factor.

[CARETAS] Leaders of the political boss type are being inpugned, as the Belmont and Vargas Llosa phenomena reveal.

[Barrantes] Well, this can be offset by means of an increasingly democratic process, with greater participation by the organized sectors, because the decisions must be made on the basis of consultation. I always refer to the municipal experience, where I pursued a pluralistic government. I appealed to the capacities of councilmen who were not politically affiliated with my group, and to the residents in the center of Lima. And what I did was as a result of their demands and proposals. It is a question, then, of a balance between my leadership and the popular sectors, in which I try to transfer the protagonistic role to the organized social sectors. Perhaps one of my virtues is that I know how to listen. When the committees from the new communities went to the municipality, I was able to stay silent for 3 or 4 hours, listening to them, because in our country there are many people who do not listen.

[CARETAS] Opinion poll experts are persuaded that Vargas Llosa will come in first on the first round, but that he will not win 50 percent. Do you agree with this prediction?

[Barrantes] That is possible. In the end we will know, but from what can be seen now, he might win first place on the first round. But those who come in first on the first round do not always win in the second. You have the case of Ecuador.

[CARETAS] If Vargas Llosa is not elected president on the first round, would an agreement be reached to join forces against him in the second?

[Barrantes] No agreement is necessary. Because the national leaderships are one thing, and the base levels in their respective parties are another.

[CARETAS] Are you thinking of IU or APRA?

[Barrantes] Of both. The masses in APRA have great political experience, as do those in IU as well. If we were to sit down now with Mr Alva Castro and Mr Pease, I could not pretend to have the capacity Haya de la Torre did to command votes, so that I could not commit any.

[CARETAS] If you were elected on the second round, with the congress having been elected on the first, you would not have a legislative majority.

[Barrantes] This is not something which concerns me. I return to the municipal experience. APRA, AP [Popular Action], and PPC [Popular Christian Party] benches know that I have always sought agreement and consensus, and that something over 90 percent of the agreements were reached on the basis of a consensus, or by a majority which was not exclusively leftist. I have some experience in engaging in dialogue to achieve what will benefit the community, rather than myself. Thus the circumstances in the government which Vargas Llosa or Barrantes take over will be such that if there is no majority in the legislative chambers, it will be necessary to go to what I am proposing—a national agreement.

Uruguay

Commercial Borders With Argentina Closed

PY0803180890 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1516 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] Montevideo, 8 Mar (AFP)—National Customs Office Director Alberto Giambruno reported today that Uruguay has closed its commercial borders with Argentina due to a massive increase in smuggling activity over the past few weeks. According to Giambruno, this increase in smuggling activity is the result of exchange differences that currently allow Uruguayans to purchase consumer goods at low prices.

This measure affects the two binational bridges that link the two countries. Also, mobile customs units on the national highways will be greatly increased. Giambruno noted that there are strict control measures on the border with Brazil but there is no need to close that borders because there is no evidence of massive smuggling activities.

Bolivian Foreign Minister Gros Interviewed

PY0903022090 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 1 Mar 90 p 7

[First part of "exclusive" interview with Bolivian Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell by EL DIARIO reporter Jacobo Jarmusz in Montevideo; date not given]

[Text] [Jarmusz] Transport and communications between Bolivia and Uruguay have been a real obstacle for the development of trade between the two countries. Do you think the waterway may help bring our two markets closer and step up economic relations?

[Gros Espiell] Without doubt, but I want to point out that it will not be "the" solution but it will be an important contribution to finding one. I think we should not rule out, or cease looking for, other ways to solve Bolivia's landlocked situation and, as a consequence, its full development. The waterway is undoubtedly essential

if we are to solve this problem. Uruguay has been considering the idea of a waterway for many years. Uruguayan politicians and geographers have been talking about it for the past 50 years. The subject was raised in 1940 during the regional conference of the River Plate Basin Member Countries that was held in Colonia, and it has been a permanent issue of Uruguayan foreign policy. I think this is one of the most important issues. It enjoys political consensus in Uruguay because it is endorsed by all Uruguayan political parties. In other words, it is not an idea, nor a proposal, nor an achievement of a single political party or government. Quite the contrary, it reflects Uruguay's deep feeling of solidarity with Bolivia, Paraguay, Argentina, and Brazil.

Ideologically, nobody objects to the waterway as a goal. I think that Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Bolivia today agree that a river outlet for Paraguay and Bolivia via the River Plate and the Atlantic is essential, not only for Bolivia's development, but also for that of southern Brazil, the Argentine littoral provinces, and Uruguay itself. Yesterday in Washington, Uruguayan President-elect Luis Alberto Lacalle said that he regarded Uruguay as the "hinge" of the River Plate Basin.

Together with other great integration projects and initiatives that seek to turn the River Plate Basin into an area interconnected by electricity, highway, railway, oil and gas pipeline networks, the waterway is probably what is missing for this project to be really effective. The waterway project is underway and must be encouraged. We want to see the day when the arrival of barges transporting soybean or manganese is no longer a reason for celebration, but an everyday event. We want to see the day when the waterway becomes the normal outlet to the Atlantic for products from Bolivia, Paraguay, and Argentina. The day the waterway is taken for granted will be the day when we can say that it has really succeeded. On that day the arrival of barges will be regarded as a normal event and not a reason for celebrations.

The waterway is already operating, it just needs to be improved. There are still some pending problems related to dredging, pilotage, and other problems of the sort. There is no doubt they will be solved with the goodwill of the River Plate Basin member countries.

Venezuela

Students Protest Visit of U.S. Vice President

PA0903015290 Paris AFP in Spanish 0051 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] Merida, 8 Mar (AFP)—Today, the INNAC news agency reported that tomorrow's visit of U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle to Venezuela has sparked strong student protests in the city of Merida, 500 km southwest of Caracas.

Students took to the streets today to protest the scheduled three-hour visit that Quayle will be paying to Venezuela tomorrow, 9 March.

The demonstrators burned the U.S. flag, looted a food truck, and stoned the building where the governor's office is located after emptying garbage cans over the city's streets.

The police dispersed the demonstrators with tear gas.

Spanish Prime Minister Arrives in Caracas

PA0903031790 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0002 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez's first words, upon arriving on Venezuelan soil, were optimistic and encouraging in regard to continued international and EEC support for the area's debt-laden governments. Gonzalez did not rule out that Spain may offer new loans to our country. He made this comment in response to emerging fears in the area that, following the political changes in East Europe, foreign investment possibilities may be diverted to that part of the world.

[Begin recording] [Gonzalez] I believe the most important thing is that we have an atmosphere that can generate confidence between both countries' social sectors and investors, and that we can truly contribute to the reciprocal development of both peoples. I trust this will cover all fields.

[Unidentified reporter] What outlook is there for the Venezuelan economy, as well as for the economies of the rest of the region's countries?

[Gonzalez] To be truthful, it is not up to me to say. You know very well I have always had a good amount of confidence in Venezuela. There is no reason not to have it. [end recording]

Felipe Gonzalez will remain on an official visit to our country for three days. Among other things, he is expected to sign a letter of intent for a Spanish-Venezualan agreement that both countries will sign once it has been completed. The treaty covers cooperation in industry and tourism, and technical, educational, and scientific aid for the Indian areas, at an overall amount of $2.5 billion.

Felipe Gonzalez' visit to Venezuela will coincide with the visit by U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle, who arrives in our country at midday tomorrow. The presidents of Costa Rica, Honduras, and Ecuador will also be here, and, together with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, they will fly to Chile to attend Patricio Aylwin's swearing-in ceremony.

Violeta Chamorro Arrives in Caracas for Talks

PA0803194690 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1759 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] Caracas, 8 Mar (EFE)—Official sources have reported that Nicaraguan President-elect Violeta Chamorro arrived today in Caracas for a brief visit prior to her visit to the United States.

At 1730 GMT, she arrived at the Maiquetia International Airport, 20 km north of Caracas, where she was welcomed by Venezuelan Government officials.

She will meet with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez at his official residence in Guzmania, in the town of Macuto, on the northern coast of Venezuela.

Perez and Chamorro will discuss Central America's political situation, especially the details of the transfer of power by the Sadninist government on 25 April.

Chamorro, who won the 25 February presidential elections, is visiting Venezuela at the same time as Spanish President Felipe Gonzalez, who is scheduled to arrive at 2100 GMT today.

Local diplomatic sources have said that Chamorro's visit to Caracas is perhaps aimed at seeking economic assistance from the Venezuelan Government.

Perez Meets With Chamorro, Gonzalez

PA0803235890 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2324 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] Caracas, 8 Mar (DPA)—Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, president-elect of Nicaragua, met today with President Carlos Andres Perez and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez to analyze the transition period, that began today in Central America, and the future support to the Managua government.

[Words indistinct] that requested their identity not be released, Mrs. Chamorro commented on the possibility of Venezuela resuming fuel supplies to Nicaragua that had been interrupted during the Sandinist government's administration.

The three politicians met at the La Guzmania presidential residence, near the Simon Bolivar International Airport, where Gonzalez and Chamorro arrived today.

The future Nicaraguan head of state arrived in Venezuela at about noon today from Managua aboard a private plane, while Gonzalez arrived at 1730 (2130 GMT).

It was reported that Mrs. Chamorro will stay overnight at La Guzmania and will fly tomorrow to Miami to undergo medical treatment.

Further on Meeting

PA0803221390 Paris AFP in Spanish 2108 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] Caracas, 8 Mar (AFP)—President-elect Violeta Chamorro, who is in Caracas today, ruled out the possibility of a coalition government in her country and reaffirmed plans to replace the Sandinist Army with a police force.

On her way from San Jose, Chamorro met with Carlos Andres Perez, Venezuela's Social Democratic president, "with whom I have maintained a 40-year friendship."

The meeting, which took place during a stopover in Caracas to board the Venezuelan presidential plane that will fly her to Houston (United States) for a medical checkup, lasted 2 and ½ hours and was held at La Guzmania, the presidential summer residence, near the capital city airport and the Caribbean Sea.

During a brief encounter with journalists, Chamorro ruled out the possibility of a coalition government between her National Opposition Union (UNO) and the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), which lost the February election.

"No, thank you, we want a democracy like the one you have here and like those existing elsewhere," Mrs. Chamorro said.

When asked whether the demobilization of anti-Sandinist contras will indeed take place, she replied: "You would have to ask that question to Daniel Ortega," who is the country's current president.

In response to another question, Chamorro said that she maintains her position of dismantling the Sandinist People's Army and replacing it with a national police force, like the one Costa Rica has. "We are advancing; we have peace, democracy, and liberty," she added.

She explained her meeting with Perez by saying that "we have maintained a 40-year friendship." She added: "I wish that my husband were the president of Nicaragua and not me."

Her husband, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, was the editor of the newspaper LA PRENSA. He was murdered on 10 January 1978, 1 and ½ years before the FSLN reached power.

The delicate government transition in Nicaragua was the dominant issue in the meeting between Perez and Chamorro.

Tomorrow Perez will host a meeting of several Central American presidents, Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja, Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, and U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle, to discuss the same issue.